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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat To Attend Antiterrorism Summit; 'Abd-al-Rahim Comments

JN1203075096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The summit of peacemakers will begin in Sharm al-Shaykh tomorrow. Thirty states are participating. A Palestinian delegation led by President Yasir 'Arafat will attend the summit. [passage omitted]

The Israeli television announced the main points of the draft joint statement that will be presented to the summit. It expresses support for the Middle East peace process, voices concern about the continuation of terrorist acts in the region, and pledges to firmly confront the phenomenon of terrorism and bolster cooperation among governments and security services to fight terrorism. The conferees will also try to reach an international agreement in order to adopt measures to bring terrorists to justice.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, member of the Legislative Council, said the success of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit hinges on its ability to adopt practical steps to accelerate the implementation of the peace accords. In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-AYYAM, 'Abd-al-Rahim said confronting terrorism is a political and economic issue inasmuch as it is a security one. He stressed the need to meet the requirements of the peace process and move quickly toward the final-solution negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Pins Hopes on Summit; Women Demonstrate in Gaza

JN1203114096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Mar 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian delegation led by President Yasir 'Arafat will participate in the summit of peacemakers in Sharm al-Shaykh tomorrow.

Responding to reporters' questions on arrival at his office in Gaza this morning, President 'Arafat said: We are mainly hoping that the summit will protect peace and advance the peace process. Thus, there will an accurate and honest implementation of what was agreed upon and signed.

Regarding the military siege imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities, President 'Arafat said: The situation here is extremely bad. He said that the Israelis are trying to bring pressure to bear on the Palestinian people and to continue the policy of collective punishment against our workers, children, and families. He termed these measures as inhumane.

The military siege imposed on the Palestinian territories has caused a deterioration in economic and health conditions.

In another development, a large procession organized by the General Union of Palestinian Women is now proceeding from the unknown soldier's square opposite the Legislative Council to the Red Cross headquarters in Gaza, demanding an end to the military siege and the release of all woman prisoners in Israeli jails.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat, U.S. Consul View Sharm al-Shaykh Conference

JN1103152996 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received U.S. Consul General Edward Abington today. They discussed the latest developments and the current preparations to convene the peacemakers conference in Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt.

President Yasir 'Arafat briefed the U.S. consul on the negative repercussions of the Israeli siege on the Palestinian land and people — a siege that has been in place for two consecutive weeks.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Comments on Summit, Israeli Measures

TA1103173696 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Mar 96 pp 1, 19

[Report by 'Ala' al-Mashahrawi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has described the summit that is slated to be held this week in Sharm al-Shaykh as important and necessary for supporting the peace process, restoring it to its real track, and solving the problems confronting the entire region.

He added that the core of these problems is the Palestinian problem, which has not reached its final destination through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. There are other daily problems such as the closure and the total siege that Israel has clamped on the Palestinian territories; the difficulties that the Palestinians face on a daily basis, such as permits; and the irresponsible statements made by some Israeli officials.

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Abu-Rudaynah explained that contacts have been held in recent days about the need to convene this summit in order to protect the peace process, which at present is facing a real crisis, and to crystallize a clear international political stance against anyone seeking to halt, harm, or foil this process regardless of his position and status.

He pointed out that 4 May will witness the launching of the final stage talks, which will address the issues of Jerusalem, the refugees, and the prisoners. He said that this path will definitely lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Abu-Rudaynah added that the summit will have important political meaning and content for the continuation of the peace process and for responding to all extremists on the Israeli and Palestinian sides who have tried to downplay the agreement that the PLO signed on behalf of the Palestinian people.

He pointed out that the response of the great powers and the major Arab states to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's call to convene an international summit is a real and revolutionary response and an important sign of support for the peace process. He said that there are pertinent motives to convene this meeting and examine all issues in all their political and nonpolitical aspects.

He added that it is clear that the problem is not local or regional, and that it has become obvious at whom the fingers of accusation should be pointed. He referred to President 'Arafat's success in persuading the United States and the Arab Republic of Egypt to agree to convene an international summit to address many of the pending issues. In another development, Abu-Rudaynah warned the Israeli Government against continuing its collective punishment measures against the Palestinian people. Those measures constitute a clear violation of the peace agreement signed with the PLO, as well as a violation of human rights. [passage omitted]

He added that these measures jeopardize the peace process and undermine confidence, which is a prerequisite for the success of the peace process.

Abu-Rudaynah pointed out that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is holding contacts with all Arab and international countries in a bid to reach a solution for the unjust siege clamped by Israel on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Quds Radio—Summit Attendees 'Myrmidons of the Devil'

JN1103182096 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1757 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Station commentary entitled: "The Meeting of Myrmidons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The myrmidons of the devil are gathering their soldiers, getting prepared, and rushing to the Arab land to protect their wicked plan. Calling it an international conference for combating terrorism, or a conference for supporting the peace process and those who are proceeding with the plot aimed at liquidating the cause of our Palestinian people, is not important. The plot is very clear. The liquidation of the vanguards of jihad and struggle and the forces rejecting defeat today takes place openly and takes its real size.

The meeting of the myrmidons of the devil will convene on Wednesday [13 March] on the Islamic, Egyptian, and Arab land — the land of Salah al-Din and the soldiers of [Caliph] 'Umar al-Khattab, 'Amr Bin-al-'As [Islamic leader who conquered Egypt in 639], and al-Zahir Baybars [ruled Egypt between 1260-1277 and founded the Mamluk Empire] and the land in whose sand invaders were buried. Today, the parties to the plot gather on this land to confront the holders of the book of God and those calling for jihad against satan, as well as to impose capitulation on chaste souls and abluted hands. The purpose of this devilish gathering is clear in this exposed media attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran and against lofty steadfastness in Syria. Both countries are accused of supporting freedom seekers, independence advocates, and those rejecting capitulation.

The big claw of Zionism in Washington is dispatching forces, soldiers, and equipment to the Zionist entity. It is also keeping its warplanes in the bases of capitulation on the Arab land, expressing its confidence in the subservient authority in the self-rule area and instigating it to carry out more attacks on our people, their institutions, mosques, and vanguards. It then blatantly and impudently attacks the Islamic Republic of Iran and against al-Asad's Syria in a brutal onslaught, through which it spreads the onslaught of instigation from China to Denmark and from France to South Africa.

Terrorist Peres came to this usurped Palestinian territory to lead instigators and myrmidons of hell, expressing his grudge and fear and claiming that the Islamic revolution in Iran is more serious than Nazism and saying that Damascus should participate in the criminal conference.

Therefore, the region is entering a new phase in the confrontation between the soldiers of righteousness

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and the myrmidons of the devil. This confrontation is certainly the most serious in the history of conflicts in this region and in the entire world. Have the plotters dropped from their calculations that there are forces which are capable of silencing the aggressors and defeating the tyrants? Have the myrmidons of the devil dropped from their calculations, in their criminal rush, that the righteous soldiers are from the best among all nations — a nation with firm determination and sincere faith, and ready to face all crimes and devilish schemes? Have they dropped from their calculations all this and declared a grinding war? Let it be so, and God is the supporter of pious ones.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Says Israeli Measures 'Jeopardize' Peace Process

JN1103161596 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received Belgian Foreign Minister Eric Deryecke last night. They discussed the latest developments in the peace process and the hardships impeding it.

The president briefed the Belgian foreign minister on the conditions of our Palestinian people under the closure and siege against the Palestinian territories and the policy of collective punishment exercised by the Israeli Government against our people.

In this regard, the president asserted that these measures jeopardize the peace process and peaceful coexistence and do not provide a positive atmosphere conducive for the progress of the peace process.

President 'Arafat and the Belgian minister also discussed the peacemakers conference and its importance at this stage to salvage the peace process in the region.

Palestinian Affairs: Israel Orders Return of Gazans; Military 'Siege' Continues

JN1203082296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation authorities ordered Gazans studying in West Bank universities to return to the Gaza Strip. The so-called commander of the central region issued a decision demanding Gaza Strip students to report to the liaison and coordination offices in order to transport them back to Gaza.

The Israeli occupation authorities, meanwhile, continued their military siege of the Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank, and their military and economic siege of the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Affairs: Qaddumi on Incidents, PA Measures, Hamas

NC1103160096 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Mar 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Qaddumi Conducts an Arab Tour To Develop a Council To Take Care of Refugees; Qaddumi: Hamas Is Part of the National Movement and We Warn Against Oppressive Measures"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department (the foreign minister), has emphasized that "no Arab supports terrorism. But there is a difference between resistance and terrorism. We are entitled to resist so long as there are Israeli soldiers on Palestinian territories."

He stressed that "Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is part of the national movement and it has its own style and approach to action. It is resisting the Israeli enemy." He pointed out that he is conducting an Arab tour together with Palestinian figures "to develop a council to supervise the affairs of refugees abroad."

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received Qaddumi in the Bustrus Palace [Foreign Ministry headquarters] yesterday. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Qaddumi said: "We are very pleased to be in fraternal Lebanon, which sacrificed victims for the sake of Arab and Lebanese rights, the peace march, and the establishment of a just and lasting peace. These visits to Arab countries seek to consolidate joint Arab action, clear the air, and protect the peaceful approach of the submitted initiative on which the Madrid summit was based.

"The recent developments, for which many people have different interpretations, were certainly among the issues we reviewed during these talks. We reiterate our desire for peace, and this is what we indeed agreed on, but we want a peace that establishes the Arab rights and guarantees the full withdrawal of Israel troops from all Arab territories as well as the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

"As a Palestinian official, I can say that the Palestinian track has stumbled. We repeatedly warned of such incidents and developments. We said that the peaceful Palestinian track has stumbled and Israel respects neither the text nor the timetable. Yitzhaq Rabin used to say that dates are not sacred. Regrettably, Oslo represented a departure from the initiative of (Former U.S. President George) Bush. Israel viewed it as if the Palestinian issue was a local one and the demands the Palestinian delegation made were submitted to a high commissioner. We made repeated warnings. Memoranda were submitted to

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the European states and the United States drawing attention to the seriousness of these developments, which ultimately led to such incidents. We said that the Palestinian track was being diminished and that it's course must be rectified.

"Oslo absolved the United States of being a partner to that track. In spite of our repeated demands at the United Nations and international conferences and in the memoranda I wrote as an official in charge of the Palestinian diplomacy to warn about these developments, unfortunately the states sponsoring that conference, the peace conference, did not take measures to prevent such developments."

In reply to a question about Yasir 'Arafat's proposal to hold a summit to combat terrorism, which he made at the first session of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and whether he supports this demand or whether he thinks this will lead to a massacre of Palestinians, Qaddumi said: First, this Palestinian Council that met is a partial one [majlis juz'iy] and the elections were partial ones too. Second, there is not a single Arab who is not against terrorism. But, there is resistance and there is terrorism. It is our right to resist as long as there are Israeli soldiers on Palestinian territories. It is our right to resist and this is recognized by international law. Israel's evacuation from the Palestinian territories will stop this resistance.

[AL-NAHAR] Does this mean that you are against the Taba conference?

[Qaddumi] I am not against any conference. But I might not agree with this conference's results.

[AL-NAHAR] Do you regard the Hamas operations as ones of resistance?

[Qaddumi] Hamas is part of the national movement. It has its own methods and ways of action. It is resisting the Israeli enemy. We in the PLO have our own method of action.

[AL-NAHAR] Do you believe that the Taba conference will succeed?

[Qaddumi] That depends on the participants. We should wait and see its results and recommendations. We will comment then.

[AL-NAHAR] Do you have specific proposals for dealing with the imbalance in the peace process that you talk about?

[Qaddumi] Yes. Israel must comply with the basis on which the peace process was established, that is, land in return for peace, withdrawal according to Security Council Resolution 242, including Jerusalem, the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, and the nonmarginalization of the Palestinian track. Yes, this is the way.

[AL-NAHAR] You described the Hamas operations as part of the resistance against occupation. How do you describe the Palestinian Authority's [PA] repressive measures against members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad?

[Qaddumi] We reject the PA's repressive measures. I warned of the dangers of this matter. This is a message to our people inside the territories and to the PA. I hope that the PA will not undertake a campaign of repression against the Palestinian people. There are security measures, but they should not exceed the limits and become repressive actions. I will send a message to the brothers inside the territories about this issue so as to avert an internal Palestinian conflict.

[AL-NAHAR] But 'Arafat has said that he will dissolve all the organizations that resist, including Hamas?

[Qaddumi] Not the organizations. He is talking about the military wings. We believe in political pluralism. [passage omitted]

[AL-NAHAR] Do you believe that there is a danger that Palestinians will be settled in Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] Not in Lebanon alone. This is one of the plans propounded many years ago to settle the Palestinians outside their country. We, the Palestinian people, reject the settlement of any Palestinian outside Palestine.

[AL-NAHAR] Have you discussed the repatriation of Palestinian fighters from Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] This is another matter which we have not discussed at all.

[AL-NAHAR] But Colonel Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn has said that you and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] might visit Beirut and Damascus to discuss the issue of repatriation?

[Qaddumi] I have no knowledge of this. I am not part of the PA in the territories. I am the foreign minister of Palestine and elected by the Palestine National Council. I represent all the Palestinian people and not the PA. This is a local initiative by the PA. [passage omitted]

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Palestinian Affairs: Qaddumi Comments on Talks in Lebanon, Hamas

MM1203114096 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Qaddumi Meets Buwayz in Beirut: We Are Keen To Maintain Relations With Lebanon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), head of the PLO's Political Department, has stressed that his visit to Lebanon and some Arab states is intended to "reinforce joint Arab action, clear the air between Arabs, and safeguard the peace process." He denied being in charge of "discussing the transfer of Palestinian fighters from Lebanon [to the territories]," and described the Palestinian Authority [PA's] "repressive measures" against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as a "serious matter".

Qaddumi traveled to Lebanon from Damascus, via al-Masna', on a tour of the region's states. He held a meeting at the foreign ministry with Minister Faris Buwayz, and was later joined by the accompanying Palestinian delegation, including Shafiq al-Hut, director of the PLO's Beirut office, and 'Umar al-Shak'ah, the Political Department's head in Amman.

After the meeting Qaddumi said: "We are happy to be in brotherly Lebanon, which has made sacrifices for Lebanese and Arab rights, the peace process, and the achievement of a just and lasting peace." He added that "these visits to Arab countries are intended to reinforce joint Arab action, clear the air between Arabs, and safeguard the peace process, in keeping with the initiative on which the Madrid conference was based. There is no doubt that the recent events were among the issues discussed." He added: "We affirm our desire for peace, and this is in fact what was agreed, but a peace which guarantees Arab rights, and includes the Israeli forces' complete withdrawal from all Arab territories and recovering the Palestinian people's national rights. As a Palestinian official I would like to stress that the Palestinian track has stumbled. We have repeatedly warned against such incidents and developments, and said that the Israeli-Palestinian peace process has stumbled and that Israel neither abides by the text nor the deadlines."

Asked whether discussions with Buwayz have touched on the transfer of Palestinian fighters from Lebanon, he replied: "This is another issue, which we have not discussed at all."

Asked whether he supports President 'Arafat's proposal at the first session of the Palestinian Legislative Council calling for an antiterrorism summit, he said: "This Palestinian Council which met was a partial council, the outcome of partial elections. There is not one Arab who is not opposed to terrorism, but there is resistance and terrorism. As long as there are Israeli soldiers in the Palestinian territories, the resistance is entitled to fight, and this is in fact what the international conventions say. Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian territories would put an end to this resistance." He added: "I am not against any conference, but I may not agree with its outcome."

Asked about the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) operations, he said: "Hamas is part of the nationalist movement and has its methods and procedures. It is fighting the Israeli enemy, and we in the PLO have our own methods of action."

On Lebanese-Palestinian relations, he said: "We are keen to maintain relations because Lebanon provides shelter to the Palestinian refugees. We want to highlight the refugees issue and tour the Arab states in the company of Palestinian figures in order to set up a committee to look after Palestinian refugees abroad."

On the Abu-Mihjin affair, he said: "We do not want to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs."

On Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn's claim that he is in charge of discussing the issue of the transfer of Palestinians with the Lebanese and Syrian authorities, he said: "I have no knowledge of this and I am not part of the Palestinian Authority [PA] inside the territories. I am Palestine's foreign minister, a member of the [Palestine] National Council, and represent the Palestinian people as a whole. I do not represent the PA. This is a local issue that the PA could resolve."

Asked about the danger of the naturalization of Palestinians in Lebanon, he said: "This is one of the proposals which was made years ago, namely to naturalize them outside their country. As a Palestinian people, we are against the naturalization of Palestinians outside Palestine."

Asked about the PA's measures against Hamas, he said: "We reject the PA's repressive measures. This is a serious matter. This is a message to our people inside the territories and to the PA, and I hope that the PA does not adopt repressive measures against the Palestinian people. Security measures must not overstep the mark and become repressive operations. I shall send a message to the brothers inside the territories to this effect, so that this does not lead to a Palestinian conflict inside the territories."

Following the meeting, Minister Buwayz offered a banquet in honor of Qaddumi and his accompanying delegation.

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Palestinian Affairs: Envoy Says PA 'Does Not Object' to Hamas-Israel Dialogue

NC0803161196 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 8 Mar 96 p 15

[Report by Najwan 'Abd-al-Latif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has made exclusive statements to AL-MUSAWWAR that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He noted that the PA does not object to a dialogue between Israel and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], in view of Hamas' competence as a political party.

He added that the offer of a truce and dialogue made by Hamas before the third explosion in Israel should have been met with some Israeli flexibility. He added that the door is still open to dialogue between the PA and Hamas.

Ambassador Subayh pointed out that President 'Arafat's decision to ban all armed activity applies only to the armed factions, like 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's battalions. We welcome political movements like Hamas and others as part of pluralism in the Palestinian system, he said, adding that particular streams within Hamas are open to dialogue and understanding. He noted that the dialogue held in Cairo last December between the PA and Hamas was productive.

Muhammad Subayh added that Hamas should commit itself to the temporary truce it announced for the next three months. He pointed out that the movement earlier respected its commitment to stop military operations for six months and only broke the truce when Israel assassinated Yahya 'Ayyash.

The Palestinian ambassador added: We appeal to the Israelis to give up the declaration of war on Hamas and to stop harassing its members so that the PA can resume dialogue on disarming factions.

Palestinian Affairs: Allenby Traffic Restricted to Tourist, Visit Permit Holders

JN1103083796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, a responsible source has told us that traffic on the al-Karamah-Allenby bridge is allowed only for those holding tourist and visit permits. Under the Israeli measures, traffic is not allowed for the ordinary resident citizens.

Palestinian Affairs: PNA Rejects Israeli Attempt To Restrict Movement in West Bank

TA1103172096 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 10 Mar 96 pp 1, 18

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — AL-AYYAM has learned that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has firmly rejected an Israeli attempt to impose new arrangements for movement between West Bank towns and villages.

It has been learned that Israeli military quarters tried to impose arrangements according to which a resident would have to obtain a permit if he wishes to go from one town to another.

The PNA rejected these ideas since they represent an attempt to divide the West Bank into cantons.

Palestinian Affairs: Police Chief—No Hamas Activists To Be Extradited to Israel

TA1203102196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majayidah, one of the Palestinian Police chiefs, says the Palestinian Authority [PA] will not extradite Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists to Israel. Al-Majayidah noted that the PA is continuing to search for Muhammad Dayf, head of the Hamas military arm, but no one knows where he is.

The Khan Yunus monument commemorating Yahya 'Ayyash has been destroyed. Our correspondent reports that the monument was demolished with the aid of a bulldozer, and Hamas sources said the Palestinian Security Services were behind the action.

Palestinian Affairs: Palestinian Official on Orders To Shoot Back at Israelis

MS1203092796 London INDEPENDENT in English 12 Mar 96 p 1

["Exclusive" report by Patrick Cockburn: "PLO: We're Ready To Shoot at Israelis"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem — Palestinian soldiers and police in Gaza and the West Bank have received orders to shoot back if Israel tries to reoccupy the areas from which it has withdrawn under the Oslo peace accords, a senior Palestinian official has said.

"Our forces will fight, of course. They have already received their orders," said Marwan Barghouti, the general secretary of Fatah, the main Palestinian political movement, on the West Bank yesterday. It is the first time a senior Palestinian leader has spelt out what will

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happen if Israel fulfils its threat to re-enter Palestinian towns and cities in response to the suicide bombing campaign.

Mr Barghouti, a veteran leader of the Palestinians in the West Bank, said the difference between Gaza when Israeli troops left it in 1994 and today is that it is now held by 20,000 armed Palestinian police. He added that the actual number of armed men is greater. In Ramallah, a town just north of Jerusalem where Mr Barghouti has his office, he said that "officially we have 1,000 men under arms", but he thought the real figure was about 5,000.

Israel has hitherto winked at the fact that Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has brought in more armed forces than allowed under the Oslo agreement. Officially described as police, they are often experienced combat troops. Israel did not object to their presence because it wanted to strengthen Mr 'Arafat against Hamas, the Islamic militant movement.

By saying publicly that Palestinian troops have orders to fight an Israeli reoccupation or incursion, the Palestinian leadership is presumably trying to avert any attack.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, has been trying to prevent any military move into Palestinian-controlled areas because this would end the Oslo agreement. But, if there are more suicide bombs, he may be unable to resist public demands for the Israeli army to return. There is no doubt that the Israeli army could fight its way in, but probably only at the cost of heavy casualties.

Relations between the self-rule Palestinian Authority and Israel have deteriorated rapidly in the two weeks since the first suicide bombers blew themselves up on 25 February. West Bank leaders say their 1.2 million people are under unprecedented pressure because Israel has stopped all movement into or out of 465 villages and seven towns. The curfew was lifted for 12 hours yesterday for people to buy food or get medical attention.

Gaza is also under tight siege with Israeli naval vessels turning back Palestinian fishermen. In the markets, customers are given a bunch of flowers free with every purchase because growers are prevented from exporting them. Mr 'Arafat says he will personally bring back flour to Gaza before he goes to the international conference, to be attended by President Bill Clinton, John Major and at least 20 other world leaders, on the threat to the peace process. It opens tomorrow in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Mr 'Arafat has intensified his drive against the political and military wings of Hamas in the last week. Three leaders of Izzedine al-Qasim, the military arm of Hamas, regarded by Israel and the US as the men behind the suicide bombs, have been arrested. However, five suicide bombers are reported to have already received explosives and to be awaiting orders to strike. At the weekend a statement said to have come from the bombers said they were calling off a proposed truce.

Palestinian Affairs: Police Arrest Hamas Leader Abu-Musamih in Gaza

TA1103163396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip have arrested another leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Sayyid Abu-Musamih. Palestinian sources said Abu-Musamih, one of the few remaining Hamas leaders at large, was detained at his home in Rafah.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Abd-Rabbuh—PNC Not To Convene Before Hebron Redeployment

TA1103171996 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 9 Mar 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-AYYAM — Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and minister of culture and information, has said that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will only convene after the redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AYYAM, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that this is a clear message which we have relayed to the Israeli side.

'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that the immediate launching of the final status talks is the only response to the present situation caused by the acts of extremist forces.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the ingredients of the Palestinian position at the upcoming Taba summit can be summarized in two points:

First, the slow pace of the peace process has given its enemies — since the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and until the recent bombings — a chance to try and kill this process. Therefore, the Palestinian position considers accelerating the peace process and ensuring efficient international supervision over it to be the best way to emerge from this situation and confront the forces that want to destroy the process.

Second, the Authority's powers outside West Bank towns are limited, and Israel has held up important parts of the bilateral agreements. At the same time, if the Authority does not do Israel's bidding, collective punishment and a blockade is imposed on the Palestinian people. Hence, the Palestinian position will emphasize that

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Israeli policy has deprived the peace process of credibility and that the answer lies in launching the final solution talks as soon as possible in any world capital — we propose Washington.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Official Abu-Marzuq—Solution Is To End Occupation

JN1103171096 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 11 Mar 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, who is detained in the United States, made the following press statement by fax:

We do not reject a just peace based on giving rights to their owners. The acts of resistance and escalation the Palestinian territories are witnessing are due to the continuation of the occupation.

Abu-Marzuq adds that keeping prisoners, arresting innocent people, and imposing collective punishment on the Palestinian people will only increase escalation and tension, whose repercussions could include the killing of civilians.

He concludes his statement by saying he believes that the way out of this is to end the occupation and give the Palestinian people their just and legitimate rights. Only then will a just peace be achieved in the region.

The fax was signed: Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, the Federal Prison, New York, United States.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Representative in Amman Interviewed

MM1103154596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Mar 96 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, by Jamal Khashuqji in Amman on 9 March]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khashuqji] Since the recent military operations behind which, it later transpired, stood Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] you have declined to make any press statements. Why, and why did you agree to this press interview?

[Nazzal] The party which announces Hamas's military operations in Palestine is the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions and it does so in the way it deems fit. Therefore we, as politicians, have nothing to do with announcing or talking about the operations except to explain the movement's policies and aims. Furthermore, it was necessary to wait and be sure about the party which carried out the operations.

We also did not wish to give a pretext to certain quarters who wish to export their crisis inside [the territories] to the outside by claiming that the Hamas leadership abroad was behind these operations. Now that the situation has become clear, it is appropriate to talk about it and about new developments.

[Khashuqji] Clearly, by quarters which accused Hamas in Jordan of being behind the operations you were referring to Nabil Sha'th and his recent statements. First of all, what is your comment on these statements, and have they affected your position in Jordan?

[Nazzal] They have not because they are not true, and the officials here are the first to know the truth about our position. I was not only referring to these statements but also to intelligence and media reports aimed at exporting the crisis to the outside by claiming that Hamas directed the operations from Amman, Damascus, or elsewhere. These are false charges. These operations take place inside, and that includes supervision, planning, and execution. Any claims to the contrary are fabrications and rumors to undermine Hamas abroad.

[Khashuqji] So what is your role here in Jordan?

[Nazzal] We play a political and informational role in defense of the Palestinian cause and to emphasize the legitimacy of Palestinian rights and the justice of the cause. We do so openly through contacts with the media and through meetings with the various political parties which seek our opinion. This role is not confined to the Jordanian arena but also extends to other Arab and Islamic arenas, without interfering in the internal affairs of these countries or undermining their security.

[Khashuqji] Do you fear the closure of your offices or your bank accounts?

[Nazzal] Hamas has no official offices in Jordan, and no bank accounts or organization. We carry out our activities through our private offices or from our homes. The movement has no oraganization in Jordan or anywhere else. Our organizational body is in the West Bank and Gaza. We are just representatives of the movement expressing its positions and political views.

[Khashuqji] You are a Jordanian citizen, are you not?

[Nazzal] Yes, I am a Jordanian citizen of Palestinian origin. There are a great many like me. There are Jordanians of Circassian or Chechen origins, in addition to the original East Jordanians. We all have the same rights and duties.

[Khashuqji] But does the law allow you to represent a foreign party like Hamas?

[Nazzal] We operate in a manner that does not violate the Jordanian Constitution, which guarantees freedom of opinion and expression. Ours is peaceful work and

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we do not undermine Jordan's security. That should not adversely affect any party.

[Khashuqji] What is your position in Jordan right now. Have you come under any pressure?

[Nazzal] I do not believe that there is anything that warrants pressure. We have not broken the law and are pursuing our work and our life normally and within the context of democracy.

[Khashsuqji] So who did issue the orders for the recent operations, and why at this particular time?

[Nazzal] The al-Qassam Battalions, the military wing of Hamas, is the party which carries out the military operations and picks the appropriate time and place. The political leadership has nothing to do with that, but there is a general policy regarding military action or suspension of it.

[Khashuqji] What is the situation, or what is Hamas's current position on military action?

[Nazzal] The point is that the al-Qassam Battalions carried out the operation on the grounds that the movement's policy is resistance to the occupation, and so long as there is occupation there is resistance. There was no political decision to stop or suspend the operations.

[Khashuqji] It was claimed that you agreed in Cairo to stop the armed action.

[Nazzal] That is not true.... After our dialogues in Cairo we issued a joint statement signed by the head of the Authority's delegation and the head of the Hamas delegation in which it was noted that Hamas maintains its position of continuing armed action as long as the occupation continued. And it was stated that there was disagreement on that point between Hamas and the Authority.

[Khashuqji] What about Damascus? It has been claimed that you traveled to Damascus after the operations. Is that true?

[Nazzal] I have not left Amman. We are leading a normal life. I go to Damascus and other places when work requires it, but I have not gone there since the operations.

[Khashuqji] The United States is putting pressure on Syria on the pretext that it hosts a Hamas office. What is the truth about the movement's presence in Syria?

[Nazzal] Hamas has no office in Syria. There are just Hamas supporters who had been deported from their homeland by the occupation. They are there against their will and could return to their homeland once their deportation orders are canceled. Does a person have anywhere to return to other than his homeland?

[Khashuqji] But you do have a representative in Damascus. He is Abu-Muhammad Mustafa....

[Nazzal] Abu-Muhammad Mustafa was deported around the end of 1990 and has been living in Damascus since then. He plays a political role as Hamas representative in the alliance of the 10 factions, but he has no office.

[Khashuqji] You said at the beginning of the interview that the picture had become clear and that is why you are now talking to AL-HAYAH. What is the picture that has now become clear?

[Nazzal] What I meant was that the link between the al-Qassam Battalions and the recent operations was confirmed when statements were isssued and attributed to the Battalions, which we knew to be true, announcing the death of the martyrs.

[Khasuqji] What about the initial statements signed by "the disciples of Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash" and the statement which announces suspension of armed action?

[Nazzal] They are untrue and forged. The Palestinian Authority was behind them.

[Khashuqji] Is this accusation based on information or deduction?

[Nazzal] Both. We reached that conclusion when we read the statements, which were written in a style different from that of the al-Qassam Battalions. The military wing's leadership knows that it cannot decide on its own on stopping armed action, not without referring to the other concerned parties in the movement, by which I mean the political leadership at home and abroad. It is also inconceivable that it would praise the National Authority and agree to negotiate through it. There also was some information and clues which confirmed our conclusions.

[Khashuqji] Does that include the two statements signed by "the disciples of Yahya 'Ayyash"?

[Nazzal] Yes. They tried to emulate the style of Hamas. The parties which forged the statements wanted to create confusion and contradictions and to give the impression of a split within the movement, which is contrary to the truth.

[Khashuqji] In the future, how would a distant observer be able to distinguish and verify statements attributed to Hamas?

[Nazzal] By going back to the movement's political leadership at home and abroad. Those who forged the statements faced the problem of making some political

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initiatives, such as suspension of military action for a period of time or making specific demands.

[Khashuqji] In the present situation and the absence of a truce, could a fifth operation occur?

[Nazzal] The movement, in a recent statement carried by news agencies, expressed willingness to discuss any political endeavor to ease the tension and the oppressive situation in the arena, but so far we have not seen any positive reaction addressing that opportunity. I therefore say that Hamas's policy of resisting the occupation has not changed.

[Khashuqji] What does Hamas specifically want in order to stop its military action?

[Nazzal] An end to the occupation. Our political program is based on the premise that there will be resistance as long as there is occupation. The occupation is still there. It is regrettable that the initiatives Hamas made in the past and is making now are met with arrogance and disdain by the Israeli authorities. All the reactions we have seen have avoided addressing the core of the conflict and the essence of the problem, which is the occupation. The search for a solution must be dissociated from the Oslo agreements.

[Khashuqji] President Bill Clinton has described Hamas's recent operations as "aimless." What is your view?

[Nazzal] Our aim is clear, namely resistance to the occupation. They are operations approved under divine and international laws. Our people want the withdrawal of the occupation from their land. Is there a clearer aim than that?

[Khashuqji] So you could halt the operations if there is a positive response to Hamas's political initiatives?

[Nazzal] Such a decision is made by the movement's institutions at home and abroad and is not made singularly by any party.

[Khashuqji] How do you view the idea of a U.S.-sponsored summit in Taba on combating terrorism?

[Nazzal] That is an Israeli idea. Its aim is to mobilize world support against the resistance movements headed by Hamas. We urge all states not to be driven to serving the Israeli Government. We do not exercise terrorism and we reject the terrorism of the individual against his society, but we are facing occupation and fighting for freedom and independence as the Algerians fought the French, the Americans fought the British, the French fought the Germans, and the blacks fought racism in South Africa.

[Khashuqji] But civilians and even children are killed in your operations, something which runs contrary to the principles declared by Hamas in the early years, that it would only target the military.

[Nazzal] That is the basis, but the Israelis never respected that principle and civilian members of our people are killed. We had a situation where the majority of Israeli society was military, men and women. Hamas has been and still is anxious not to harm children, women, and elderly people. It has habitually targeted soldiers, but mistakes occur sometimes and some members of these groups fall victim, but unintentionally. It must be pointed out that the Israeli media focuses on civilian victims and ignores the military dead and wounded.

[Khashuqji] Have the opportunities for dialogue and understanding with the National Authority come to an end?

[Nazzal] Not on our part.... In Cairo we agreed to continue the dialogue and we should be negotiating now to solve the current problems, but they are launching an unprecedented security campaign not only against the movement but also against a large segment of our population. We see that campaign as a violation of the Cairo agreement. At any rate, we are ready for dialogue because it is the only way for the continuation of the coexistence between us and the only alternative to a confrontation which we do not want.

[Khashuqji] The situation in the occupied territories is extremely serious and there is extreme tension between the Hamas supporters and the Authority. Could that lead to confrontation? That is, as far as the Authority is concerned. As far as Israel is concerned, could the recent security operations against the Hamas supporters entail operations against which the movement would retaliate.

[Nazzal] That, of course, is possible, regrettably. These campaigns are rejected and condemned. The Authority has declared war on Hamas just as the Israeli authorities did. It is not in its (the Authority's) interest to appear to be a tool in the hands of the occupation. For its part, Hamas wants to avoid confrontation because it wants only to confront the occupation. We hope we do not reach the point of explosion.

[Khashuqji] Meaning that an explosion or civil war is possible?

[Nazzal] We seek to avert that, but the Authority should realize that Hamas's military structure has not been affected by the severest Israeli repressive operations. It is there, and too much pressure could result in explosion, which we do not want.

[Khashuqji] What about the Israeli side?

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[Nazzal] As I said, resistance to the occupation will continue so long as there is occupation.

[Khashuqji] The Hamas leaderships in Gaza and the West Bank appear to be more moderate than you. I mention in particular the recents statements of Mahmud al-Zahhar, Muhammad al-Sham'ah, and Jamil Hammami....

[Nazzal] The differences of opinion are a healthy sign reflecting the movement's vitality. A movement whose members are educated and politically enlightened cannot be expected to operate within rigid frameworks, but the rule we follow is that the movement's members abide by its positions and policies. Any view that departs from the movement's position represents not the movement but the person holding that view.

[Khashuqji] Does that include the appeals addressed by al-Zahhar and al-Sham'ah to al-Qassam Battalions asking them to stop the operations?

[Nazzal] The appeals of brothers al-Zahhar and al-Sham'ah seem to have been made in a certain atmosphere and do not express the collective view of the movement's leadership. Instructions to al-Qassam Battalions are given through the movement's institutions, not in the media or at press conferences.

[Khashuqji] Why did the operations stop during the recent elections if the decision was to continue the armed action so long as there was occupation?

[Nazzal] The Hamas leadership did not conclude any agreement with any side to stop the armed action. The escalation or subsidence in the operations reflects a time factor linked to the military wing, which carries out the operations according to its technical capabilities.

[Khashuqji] Did the assassination of Yahya 'Ayyash influence the resumption of armed action?

[Nazzal] There can be no doubt that the recent operations were a direct reaction to the assassination of martyr Yahya 'Ayyash, but the timing of operations on certain occasions or in retaliation to a particular aggression does not negate the fact that they come in the natural course of Hamas's strategic program for resistance to the occupation.

[Khashuqji] What about Iran and the claim that it is linked to the recent operations?

[Nazzal] That is nonsense.... Neither Iran nor anyone else other than Hamas is linked to these operations or even to influencing the movement's decision. That is a fabricated hullabaloo aimed at exporting the crisis on the one hand and finding a pretext for the campaign against Iran on the other. These operations do not require any foreign assistance.

[Khashuqji] Do you sense any change in the Syrian position, particularly as some Syrian officials have expressed regret after the recent operations?

[Nazzal] We have not heard any official condemnation of the operations from any Syrian official. As regards change in the Syrian position, even if a Syrian-Israeli agreement occurs, Hamas would not be affected because its main and direct work is in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas, Islamic Jihad Reportedly Adopt 'Offensive Strategy'

JN1103115496 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 11 Mar 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD learned that coordination at the highest level has begun between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad with the aim of confronting the fierce onslaught against the two movements by the Palestinian and Israeli security forces.

According to important security sources in the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders in the West Bank, Gaza, and in the Palestinian areas occupied in 1948 have begun preparations to escalate martyrdom operations in accordance with a new offensive strategy represented by keeping the battle in the Israeli arena because offense is the best means of defense.

Regarding the position toward the Palestinian Authority and its political and security figures, there is a strong inclination by Hamas and Jihad leaders to cancel the red lines which used to govern their previous behavior and to deal specific and qualitative blows to the authority and its figures who are involved in repressing, imprisoning, and torturing the mujahidin of the two movements.

In an important report presented recently to the Palestinian president, the Palestinian security sources said they seized a message from Hamas branch in Nabulus to its leadership demanding the declaration of civil disobedience in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cities.

Protection of 'Arafat, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Amin al-Hindi, Musa 'Arafat, Ghazi al-Jabali, Muhammad Dahlan, Tariq Abu-Rajab, and Zakariya Ba'lushi has been tightened recently in anticipation of assassination attempts against them.

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Palestinian Affairs: Sudan's al-Turabi Offers To Mediate Between PA, Hamas

NC1103172096 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 7 Mar 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Turabi Tells AL-NAHAR: I Am Ready To Mediate Between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his first comment on what is happening in Israel and the [Palestinian] self-rule areas following the recent suicide operations, Sudanese Islamic leader Dr. Hasan al-Turabi told AL-NAHAR in a telephone contact from Khartoum that he is ready to mediate again between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in order to spare the Palestinians the danger of civil war and expel tension in the Palestinian areas.

When asked how far the mediation efforts between Hamas and the PA, which he started several months ago, have reached, al-Turabi said: "We already mediated between Hamas and the PA. But certain parties — which you know do not want to give us a role in creating a climate of calmness and peaceful understanding — interfered and robbed us of this."

Asked whether he is willing to revive and follow up this mediation, al-Turabi answered: "Out of our desire to achieve just and comprehensive peace and to spare the region the dangers of tension, acts of revenge, and counter acts of revenge, we are ready to continue mediation efforts and put our endeavors at the service of human society and the brothers in Palestine, in order to achieve security and tranquility."

Palestinian Affairs: PFLP-GC's Jibril—U.S. Wants To Turn Arabs Into 'Agents'

NC1203091896 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has noted his determination to continue confronting Israel using every means, irrespective of the results of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, which serves the interests of Zionist terrorism. He added that the U.S. Administration and its Western allies want to turn the Arab rulers and leaders into little agents who defend their interests and the interests of the Zionist entity. This is why, under the pretext of terrorism, they are fighting all the honorable and struggling forces that refuse to be their agents.

Palestinian Affairs: PFLP Says Resisting Occupation Legitimate Right

JN1103143896 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by Dr. George Habash, stated that resisting the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land with all means, including military operations, is a natural and legitimate right.

Palestinian Affairs: Fatah Dissident Threatens Suicide Attacks Against Israel

NC1103194196 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Fatah dissident Lieutenant Colonel Munir al-Maqdah has said that his men are ready to carry out suicide operations against Israel to save the honor of the Arabs, as he put it. Al-Maqdah, who is based in the Palestinian camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah in southern Lebanon, said his men will carry explosives around their bodies and attack Israeli patrols and complexes.

[Begin al-Maqdah recording] Here is Clinton and the U.S. Administration subpoenaing the Arab amirs and the European rulers [to the Sharm al-Shaykh summit] to perpetuate the occupation, after it was weakened by the human bombs, which, God willing, will continue inside and outside Palestine until the Jews disappear from all our occupied territories. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: PLO Envoy Views Situation in Gaza, West Bank

AU1103132696 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0500 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with 'Abdallah al-Franji, PLO representative in Germany, in Bonn, by Hans-Joachim Wiese in Cologne — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Wiese] Good morning, Mr. al-Franji.

[Al-Franji] Good morning, Mr. Wiese.

[Wiese] Mr. al-Franji, you just returned from Gaza. What is the mood there? Does some kind of state of emergency prevail there because of the harsh persecution of Islamic fundamentalists?

[Al-Franji] The mood in the Gaza Strip and the occupied territories is very depressing and very bad. Recent developments have been characterized by tensions, big tensions resulting from the strong activities by terrorist

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groups in Israel and its surroundings. It could be felt during the two or three attacks that took place in Israel recently. The reactions by the Israelis to these attacks were another reason for resignation in the occupied territories. Altogether, one can say that disappointment and resignation are very strong in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. On the other hand, efforts are under way to arrest the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, so that no new operations can take place.

[Wiese] Israel's Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq has hinted that Israel might also intervene militarily in the autonomous Palestinian territories if 'Arafat does not prosecute Hamas and other groups consistently. What would such a step mean for the peace process if that should happen?

[Al-Franji] You know, these are irresponsible statements by Israeli politicians. I believe that, if the Israelis continue to deal with us in this way, they will not only support Hamas, but they will create an atmosphere in which many Palestinians are against peace, and thus Hamas will again receive more support. You know — you have probably carried out investigations — that many states in the world, including Israel, supported the Islamic wave in the past. Hamas was founded by the Israelis. Hamas was established in Israel, and the Israelis knew very well that they backed Hamas at the time to have an alternative to the PLO. We cannot only use violence in the fight against these groups — from Hamas to Jihad. They must be given an opportunity to integrate into society. They should have no other choice but to accept Palestinian democracy. However, if one uses violence, one might no longer be able to control it at a certain point.

[Wiese] Mr. al-Franji, the Palestinian side — your own security forces — are also using violence against fundamentalist terrorism. There have been contradictory reports from the Gaza Strip. On the one hand, it has been said that the head of the Palestinian Security Service, (Jibril Rajuf), has been dismissed by 'Arafat. On the other, (Rajuf) himself has allegedly denied this. Do you have information on that?

[Al-Franji] You know, I would like to separate that from the measures that we have adopted against Hamas. Of course, there are people in our organs who are not experienced enough, or who are not in a position to take sufficient action against the Hamas activists. There are also other people who believe that this problem can and should only be solved in a political way, and who do not act in the way the Israelis want them to. In any event, this has nothing to do with our measures. There are people who should probably be dismissed, people who might not able to head operations in the future. Thus, they might be removed.

[Wiese] On the basis of your information, I assume that (Rajuf) has been dismissed.

[Al-Franji] I have no exact information. One must wait and see. I do not know exactly. We continue to be separated from the West Bank, and developments in the West Bank are much more critical than in Gaza because in Gaza we are in control of violence. 'Arafat is not in the West Bank, and the government is not there either. For this reason, the administration and organization are not as good there as in Gaza.

[Wiese] Is it true that the two top men of the militant wing of Hamas, (Mohamed Dif) and (Ahmet al-Satawi) have been arrested?

[Al-Franji] I do not know whether they have been arrested. You know, talks have been held recently — since September or October last year — with the Hamas leadership. Hamas is deeply split. I believe that these people rather belong to those who were willing to stop the terrorist activities and the military struggle and to open a political dialogue with the PLO leadership. They were even willing to participate in the elections. Yet the Hamas leadership abroad called on them not to continue the process with 'Arafat and the Palestinian administration. In any event, I believe that this problem should be handled with care. We would not like to have a situation like in Afghanistan or in some countries where violence prevails. Political and economic measures are needed. Thus, investments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank must continue. Investments by the donor countries which have been carried out in the Gaza Strip in the past three years are ridiculous. The closures, which also take place at regular intervals, are a punishment for the people and impede the economic development.

[Wiese] Mr. al-Franji, this is certainly right, but for the international donors whom you just mentioned it is very important that the Palestinian security authorities take really harsh action against the militant wing of Hamas. Thus, I would like to ask you once more: Are the Palestinian security authorities currently doing enough to arrest people like (Dif) and (al-Satawi)?

[Al-Franji] The Palestinians have taken so many measures now that the human rights organizations have even protested against us. The fact that so many politicians have decided to go to Sharm al-Sheikh to attend the antiterrorist conference means that the Palestinians alone and the Israelis alone, and the Palestinians and the Israelis alone are not in a position to fight against this

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phenomenon. You have seen that 30 million were collected in banks in Great Britain alone. The next question is: How much money was raised in the other European states, in the United States and in the Gulf states? I hope that these states will be able to take measures because the measures of the Palestinians alone will not be sufficient to stop all activities and to end the terrorist activities by the people who have in the meantime split from Hamas.

[Wiese] You have repeatedly mentioned Hamas' relations with other countries. Do the Palestinian security authorities possess evidence that Hamas is being financed and controlled by Iran, that Iran supports the terrorism of Hamas directly?

[Al-Franji] I will not mention any state. I have repeatedly stressed that. 'Arafat will go there and provide a great deal of information. One will see that the development and the establishment of Hamas is not controlled by one country alone. This is a phenomenon that started at the time of the revolution in Iran and later after the liberation of Afghanistan. Even the United States and all European states supported this new type of resistance. Hamas also benefited from that as a Palestinian organization. Thus, I believe that this problem must be treated in a global manner and with a great deal of care so as not to create new gaps through which the radical groups can reenter.

[Wiese] I asked you because, at their summit in Palermo over the weekend [9-10 March], the EU foreign ministers made proof of Iran's involvement in international terrorism the precondition for tougher measures against Iran. What do you think of the results of the Palermo conference?

[Al-Franji] I believe that the states waited for this meeting of the presidents and of other responsible officials and for the presentation of all information. It think that this was correct. One cannot expect the foreign ministers to adopt tougher measures before the Sharm al-Sheikh conference. The Israelis will certainly present their information there, and the Palestinians will do the same. I believe this is very complicated and very difficult because many Hamas leaders are also in Amman, for example, or in Gulf states, where they receive money. As I just said, we are confronted with a very difficult problem, which must be tackled with, let us say, determination but also with sensitivity and more farsightedness.

Palestinian Affairs: Belgian FM Derycke—Murder Squads Formed To Kill 'Arafat

BR1203102796 Brussels BRTN-TV1 Television Network in Dutch 1830 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Video report by correspondent Ankie Rechess — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Belgian Foreign Minister Eric Derycke had a meeting with PLO President 'Arafat. After his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Peres the minister left for the Gaza Strip late last night. He met with the Palestinian leader around midnight. Here is a report by our correspondent Ankie Rechess.

[Rechess] There was unusual activity at the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip. The border has been hermetically closed for Palestinians but a high-level foreign guest can cross it without any problem. It was the last stage of a lightning visit to the Middle East.

In the middle of the night Belgian Foreign Minister Derycke visited the Gaza Strip as well. He had a twofold message for PLO President Yasir 'Arafat. First, the EU strongly condemns the recent wave of terrorist attacks; second, the EU endorses the peace process and backs 'Arafat.

The visit started with a friendly handshake, but very soon the atmosphere became tougher.

[Derycke] We have been very tough about terrorism. I told him several times: Do something specific. Of course, this made him very nervous. In addition, his internal problems and the problems with respect to his safety are clearly huge. [passage omitted]

[Derycke] From my meeting with 'Arafat I learned that he really means it, because he realizes that not only the continuation of the peace process but also his own life depends on it.

[Rechess] Did you feel that he felt threatened?

[Derycke] Not really, but he was worried about what could happen. He told me that — although you cannot check this, of course — murder squads have been formed to kill him. I believe that this is a major signal.

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Palestinian Affairs: Controversy Over PSS Head Continues

TA1003173096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Jibril al-Rujub continued to work today in his Jericho offices as head of the Palestinian Preventive Security [PPS] apparatus, while Col. Husayn al-Shaykh, who was slated to replace al-Rujub, has still not received the post officially. Al-Rujub's associates told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that today he held several phone talks with 'Arafat, adding that relations between the two are good. 'Arafat's associates are refusing to clarify who is the PPS head, while Col. al-Shaykh's men continue to claim firmly that he is the new chief.

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Algeria

Algeria: Press Reports Participation in Terrorism Summit

LD1103134896 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria may take part in the international summit on terrorism which is to take place at Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt in 48 hours' time. That is what two dailies, 'LIBERTE' and 'LA TRIBUNE', have reported. This has not been officially confirmed.

Algeria: Press Photographer Assassinated in Algiers

LD1203104396 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A photographer working for the [French-language] weekly ALGERIE ACTUALITE has been assassinated. A security services statement today said that Arabidou Djilali, 61 years, a photographer working for the weekly ALGERIE ACTUALITE was assassinated today at about 0915 in the [southwestern] Algiers suburb of Ain Naadja by armed criminals.

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak—Syrian President Will Not Attend Summit

NC1103173596 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1639 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Unscheduled newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak arrived a short while ago in Sharm al-Shaykh where the peacemakers summit will be held the day after tomorrow. The summit will be attended by the leaders of about 30 countries.

In statements to correspondents on his arrival, President Mubarak said that the purpose of the peacemakers' summit is to strengthen the Middle East peace process in light of the recent incidents in the region.

On whether Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will attend the summit, President Mubarak said: Syrian President al-Asad has his own points of view. I believe that he will not attend the summit.

In response to a question about hosting this summit in Egypt, President Mubarak said that Egypt has in the past hosted several international conferences, the latest of which were the International Conference on Population and the International Conference on Combating Crime.

Egypt: Musa, al-Baz Comment on Peacemakers' Summit, Syria's Absence

NC1103164996 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated once again that the Sharm al-Shaykh summit meeting will revolve around three points: To consolidate peace, maintain security, and fight violence. He remarked that these points represent the summit agenda.

Responding to a question on coordination among Arab states prior to the summit, similar to what happened among the European states, 'Amr Musa replied that coordination has been going on over the past few days. He added that he telephoned Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, the Tunisian foreign minister, and President 'Arafat today. He affirmed that contacts are continuing side by side with other contacts at the presidential level.

Asked whether a tripartite summit will be held on the sidelines of this summit, Musa replied that there are no arrangements to hold such a summit at this time. However, he added, everything is possible.

For his part, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, said that the peacemakers summit in Sharm al-Shaykh will be held to protect the peace march, give it momentum, eliminate the obstructions hindering it, and fight the inclination toward violence.

Answering a question about criticism directed at Syria's absence from the summit, Dr. al-Baz replied: It would be better for all Arab parties to participate so that we could prove the collective Arab interest in reviving the peace process and pushing it ahead. He added that adopting a stance against the use of violence is an Arab rather than Israeli demand.

Asked about the organizational procedures at the summit, Dr. al-Baz said that arrangements are being made and that they will be completed at noon tomorrow.

Dr. al-Baz affirmed that the final statement the summit will issue will reflect the discussions held and the consensus reached.

Asked whether there is Arab coordination on the summit, particularly since European states, Russia, and America have done that, al-Baz said that Egypt is holding contacts with all Arab states as well as other states.

Asked whether this is Madrid No. 2, al-Baz said: The summit is another extension; it is not just Madrid 2.

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On whether there were Egyptian efforts to hold that summit or if it was held by American initiative, al-Baz said that the conference was a result of the joint efforts of several states and not that of one state, particularly since it has become clear that peace is being threatened and that it should be saved from the spreading terrorist phenomenon in the region, the phenomenon that produced what happened in Israel.

Al-Baz concluded that President Mubarak will chair the summit.

Egypt: Summit Urged To Tackle Roots of Terrorism

NC1203080696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH note that numerous heads of state and prime ministers have agreed to attend the international summit for peacemakers called for by President Husni Mubarak. The papers say agreement to attend shows appreciation and esteem for President Mubarak, whose loyalty, patriotism, and sound judgment the whole world trusts.

In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that President Mubarak's initiative places the peace process on a new path; a spontaneous referendum would confirm that the world wants peace and the confrontation of terrorism, not only as one of the organized crimes of the age, but also as the archenemy of peace. It adds that it is no coincidence that the conference will be held in Sharm al-Shaykh, one of the landmarks of revival in the Sinai Peninsula. Sinai is the land of holy religions that preach peace and goodness and is a living witness to the great victory Egypt scored in the battle of peace after it declared that the October war of 1973 would be the last war. It is natural that the rest of the parties should follow the path of peace that Egypt began and look forward to Egypt's sincere and honest support for these efforts. The paper calls on the world leaders meeting in Sharm al-Shaykh to use this golden opportunity to prove to the world that the participants are really the peacemakers, by tackling the real and original reasons that obstruct the peace process and laying down the basis for successful international cooperation capable of uncovering the roots of terrorism and hunting down its dens with objectivity so that the summit may give a strong boost to the peace efforts.

Under the headline "What the Sharm al-Shaykh Summit Is Required To Do," AL-AHRAM says the summit comes to save the peace process in the Middle East, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. It notes President Husni Mubarak's statement that the goal of the summit is to save the peace process and avoid what some people are demanding—that the meeting seek to embroil Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in operations that might lead to internal Palestinian internecine fighting. AL-AHRAM says Cairo sees clearly that continuing the peace process by withdrawing from Hebron and starting the negotiations on the final status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip territories and Jerusalem and resuming the negotiations with Syria as quickly as possible are the best means of protecting security, not only Israel's security, but that of all the countries of the region.

AL-AHRAM asserts that the Israeli security measures alone will not halt the counter Palestinian violence; they will enhance it. It notes that the Palestinian violence is countered by Israeli violence and that if one type of violence is terrorist the other is no less terrorist. The paper stresses that for the Sharm al-Shaykh summit to meet the hopes placed on it, the countries that promised economic aid to the Palestinians should hasten to fulfill their promises. It states that this economic aid will help turn the wheel of economy in the Palestinian territory and ease joblessness. The Palestinians would thus have something to care for and subsequently violence would dry up at the roots. Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says that if these countries do not fulfill their promises of economic aid to the Palestinians, tension will continue along with the obstacles obstructing peace.

In his daily column in AL-AKHBAR, Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad says that if what is wanted is Arab-Israeli peace in particular—although peace is required for all the world—the Arabs and Israel must express a genuine and honest desire for peace, a fair, comprehensive, and permanent peace. He says that if this peace is not fair, the other party feeling injustice will continue to lie in wait for the other. Peace will not be an established fact between the two parties unless it is comprehensive, because particular Arab parties will remain dissatisfied and some Arab countries will not abandon one another. Therefore, Murad says, peace must ultimately be comprehensive, involving all parties so that the issue is finally settled. Unless peace is viewed by the parties as permanent, a time may come when the winds of spite, revenge, selfishness, and ambition might blow away all the sacrifices, pain, and efforts that the peoples have made.

In his daily column in AL-AHRAM, journalist Salah Muntasir says: Terrorism will not destroy the peace but peace can easily destroy terrorism. This is why we want the Sharm al-Shaykh conference to be, first, a conference of peace and, only second, a conference against terrorism.

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Under the title "Clinton and the Elections," AL-AHRAM columnist Salamah Ahmad Salamah says it is natural that U.S. President Bill Clinton should do all he can to ensure the success of the peacemaking conference, not only to save the Middle East peace, but to consolidate his foreign policy achievements, which are almost his only record of success in the electoral campaign.

Salamah adds: President Clinton has staked much of his influence on achieving these foreign policy successes both in Bosnia-Herzegovina and with regard to the Northern Ireland issue. These achievements, including the Middle East peace, might be wasted if they suffer fatal setbacks.

In an article in AL-JUMHURIYAH, journalist al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf declares that obstructing the Middle East peace process will necessarily signify the obstruction of the new desired formula for regional and international relations that is linked with the settlement of bilateral and multilateral problems between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

He adds: Certainly, such an obstruction will harm all the parties, the Arabs, Israel, and the big powers.

Jamal Badawi, chief editor of the opposition paper AL-WAFD, writes under the headline "Blessed Are the Peacemakers." Combating terrorism is a principle on which no two people disagree, on condition that it is carried out in an even-handed way, using a single standard and a single perspective. We must not overlook Israeli terrorism and then sharpen the knives to slaughter Palestinian extremists.

Egypt: Musa, Pakistan's Babar Agree To Combat Terrorism Jointly

BK1203064296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, now in Egypt, called on the Egyptian foreign minister, Mr. 'Amr Musa, in Cairo. They discussed regional and international issues, especially Kashmir, Afghanistan, and the Middle East peace process. The interior minister briefed the Egyptian foreign minister about situation in Kashmir and attacks on the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference by the Indian security agencies. On Afghanistan, he said Pakistan was continuing its efforts to bring about peace and stability based on UN and OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] resolutions and hoped that warring sides would reach an agreement soon to end the conflict.

The Egyptian foreign minister briefed the interior minister about the international peace conference being held in Egypt tomorrow. The two ministers agreed to cooperate fully in combating terrorism in all its forms.

Egypt: Jihad Threatens Bulgaria With Repetition of Islamabad Blast

MM1203105796 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Mar 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Jihad Threatens a Repetition of 'Islamabad' in Bulgaria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — The fundamentalist Jihad group yesterday warned the Bulgarian Government against handing over any wanted elements to Egypt.

In a statement, of which AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has obtained a copy, the group said that "Bulgaria would turn its own territory into an arena of confrontation" with the Egyptian Government [as published] if it hands over any wanted elements. The statement said that "What happened in Islamabad could be repeated anywhere."

As is known, the Jihad group claimed responsibility for the Egyptian Embassy blast in Islamabad last November, which resulted in many people being killed or wounded.

Libya

Libya: Details of al-Qadhdhafi Assassination Bid Cited

MM1103171596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 96 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil in London: "Libyan 'Salvation' Confirms al—Qadhdhafi Faced Assassination Attempt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Libyan opposition groups have confirmed that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has escaped an assassination attempt against him in Surt. A group calling itself the "Islamic Militant Group" [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah al-muqatilah] [IMG] claimed responsibility for the failed attempt, which was also confirmed by the "National Front for the Salvation of Libya" [NFSL] (one of the main opposition groups).

Official NFSL sources told AL-HAYAH that "a daring fedayeen operation aimed at killing Col. al-Qadhdhafi was carried out by an Islamist fedayeen group." They added that the assassination attempt took place during the last week of Ramadan this year, and that, although

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the Libyan leader escaped, some of his companions were killed and others wounded. They said that those who carried out the operation were killed.

The sources said that, following the failed assassination attempt, Libyan security organs launched a campaign of arrests against a number of Islamists. They confirmed that many arrests took place among the Zuwayah tribe following the discovery by the security organs of quantities of weapons and ammunition which had "disappeared" from the military depot in Ajdabiya, one of the cities inhabited by the Zuwayah tribe.

The NFSL said that this new operation "is a clear indication that the jihad operations are intensifying against the (Libyan) regime and the chaos, injustice, and delinquency it represents." They added that "the Libyan people's forces are again moving toward settling the battle for Libya's future."

The NFSL information confirms the IMG's 6 March statement claiming responsibility for the failed assassination attempt. In a statement signed by its leader, 'Abdallah al-Sadiq, and sent to AL-HAYAH, the IMG said that the attempt took place in Surt and that the attacking force clashed with the security forces, resulting in casualties on both sides. It said that the group's leader, brother 'Abd-al-Muhaymin (a veteran Arab fighter in Afghanistan), was able to withdraw, while three members of the group, namely Fathi al-Qut'ani, Muhammad al-Fayturi, and Anwar al-Jami'i, were killed. They pointed out that the latter was one of the prisoners freed when the Abu-Salim prison in Tripoli was stormed (at the end of last year AL-HAYAH published details of the storming of the prison near the Libyan capital).

The IMG said that 'Abd-al-Muhaymin's home in Ajdabiya was demolished and that the city was surrounded to force its inhabitants to hand over the suspects in the failed assassination attempt.

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Strongly Criticizes Arab Leaders on Summit

LD0903223196 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Mar 96

[All place names as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to the JANA, and to the journalists who were accompanying the Malian president, Alpha Oumar Konare, upon the latter's arrival in the great Jamahiriyah in which he [al-Qadhdhafi] said:

When I previously invited Arabs to join the society for the protection of animals I was not joking. I still seriously think they should consider it. Unfolding events have proved that my invitation was a serious one: Libyan children were massacred in 1986 following a wanton and unjust raid and children in Sabratah and Shatila were also hideously massacred. Tens if not hundreds of Palestinians were killed in the Ibrahimi Mosque [in Hebron]; Shaqqaqi and Ayyash were also killed. Houses which were still occupied were destroyed in Lebanon and families were run over by tanks. All these events took place but the world did not care nor did it hold a summit conference to put an end to such atrocities. However, as soon as tens of Israelis are killed, all hell is raised.

Whenever we have demanded that an Arab Summit should be arranged in the interest of all Arabs, we have been told it is impossible. But holding a summit with the Americans and the Israelis is always a priority and is always arranged as soon as possible.

The world views Arabs as animals and views Israelis as human beings. As long as this perception is true, Arabs should join the society for the protection of animals so they might receive some protection.

Furthermore, it seems that Arab leaders do not know how to use the word "No" whenever they are asked by the Americans to do something.

The brother leader of the revolution concluded his statement saying: Zionists and Americans comprise the biggest terrorist force in the world today.

Evildoing will not, however, end in the Middle East until these two wanton forces, which have been carrying out such deeds, are gone.

May God provide us with the means and the power.

Libya: JANA Editor Attacks Saudi Participation in Cairo Conference

LD1103184496 Tripoli JANA in English 1809 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al-Rabia [March] 11, (JANA) — It was reported that Saudi Arabia decided to participate in the conference which will be held in Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt, next Wednesday with the attendance of the Israeli enemy.

The JANA Arab Affairs Editor commented on the Saudi participation in that conference and said: "The Arab and Islamic nations are shocked for this news. We did not wish such a position for Saudi Arabia which accommodates the holy Mecca and the holy land, as remained at a distance from recognizing the Israeli enemy or contacting the Israelis who insist that holy Jerusalem is their eternal capital. [sentence as received]

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The editor added: We were wishing that King Fahd who is the custodian of the two holy mosques did not make such precedent. And we were wishing that Saudi Arabia maintains its position of non-recognition and no contacts with the enemy of Arabs and Muslims, as we thought that it is not compatible with the Saudi position to reach such a stage of recognizing the Israelis.

The editor confirmed that it is for the dismay of everyone that the state which is supposed to be in the service of the two holy mosques and which hosts annually the pilgrims of the holy house of God to meet the Israeli face to face. And that shaking hands would take place between the representatives of Saudi Arabia and the representatives of the enemy who occupies holy Jerusalem, as Saudi Arabia announced that it will participate by sending its foreign minister to the conference of Sharm al-Shaykh.

The JANA Arab Affairs Editor concluded his comment by confirming that if Saudi Arabia participation takes place in that conference which is attended by the Israelis, then Saudi participation will come at a time when the Israeli enemy is boasting that holy Jerusalem is their eternal capital, and when Israeli expansive ambitions continue to include the holy Mecca and Medina the directions of Muslims everywhere. [sentence as received]

This obliges us to record our dismay and the dismay of the Islamic world for such position taken by Saudi Arabia.

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Questions West's Reaction to Israeli Bombings

LD0803234096 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2047 GMT 8 Mar 96

[Address by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a women's conference in Surt on 8 March — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Two days ago Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] authority arrested 600 young people in Palestine. Within a period of two days he put 600 people in prison. That these Arabs might die does not matter, but if they were Jews the whole world would have raised a hue and cry. The whole world is crying over the explosions that took place, they are even asking us to cry. Cry? The hell with you. Why didn't you cry over Shatila [massacre], [Fathi] Shaqaqi [Hamas leader killed in Malta], or Yahya Ayyash [Hamas leader killed in Gaza]? Why when Arabs are killed in large numbers the world does not cry over them? Why didn't you cry over the massacres of children in Sabra and Shatila? Why didn't they [the Israelis] put Sharon on trial, who slaughtered them [children in Sabra and Shatila]. He is still around and they did not put him on trial. Fathi Shaqaqi and Ayyash's sons and soldiers are taking their revenge. Who started the wars, the killings, the shooting and liquidation? It was the Israelis. You didn't cry over Zuhayr of the Sa'iqa when they killed him in France, Shaqaqi when he was killed in Malta, Ayyash when they killed him by a remote mobile phone [in Gaza], or Kamal Nasir and 'Udwan who were killed in Beirut. You didn't cry over those killed by plane raids or assassinated by bullets in Tunisia. You did not cry over the children of Sabra and Shatila or those in southern Lebanon, run over by Israelis, whole families run over by [Israel] tanks while they were sitting in their civilian cars.

You did not cry over the Bahr al-Baqar school in Egypt and the Ahliyah company [presumably venues of the incidents described next], when children were killed by Israeli aircraft. You did not cry for those.

They are taking revenge. Why did you not cry for them? Why did you not make the Israelis accountable? Why did you not resolve their problem? This is still the case. These explosions and massacres will never end; they will not end until everyone is satisfied. Those people are not satisfied. They are angry. Their land is occupied.

What happened to the pre-1967 Palestine? We grew up hearing people talk about the beloved and usurped Palestine — and the catastrophe. There was a lie; they said that Palestine was occupied in 1967. So, what happened to the pre-1967 Palestine? We have known Palestine before 1967.

There were books, curricula, poetry, and prose written by the nation on the Palestine that was usurped in 1948. They said no, that is all wrong. Palestine was usurped in 1967. So, why did Abu-'Ammar establish the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] in 1964? For whose liberation did he establish it if the land was not occupied then? They have taken us beyond what is rational. This does not make sense to us.

They cry for Israelis killed while the fida'iyyin [guerrilla fighters] were liberating their land. Why do you not cry for Palestinians? They say we will not cry for them, we will cry for the Israelis. [passage omitted]

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Calls on French To Solve Problems With Tripoli

LD0903181196 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 2230 GMT 8 Mar 96

[From the "Geopolis" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Studio announcer Claude Serillon] Good evening. Libya is living under the

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embargo. It is not to be frequented. Furthermore, it is the base for international terrorism. This is how the American leaders in particular refer to the situation in this Mediterranean state to which this "Geopolis" is devoted.

The reportage that was carried out in Libya, and that you will see in a few minutes, gives a superficial view of things because everything is under control.

This state has a symbol, which is Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We will tell you how he has identified himself to his people as a revolutionary leader, child of the desert people, who became a charismatic and Third World leader brandishing this small Green Book by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, where one can find all the thoughts of the Libyan leader.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi granted an interview to Richard Binet for "Geopolis" on 11 January. The interview was carried out in a tent in military barracks in Tripoli.

You will see that the leader of the Libyan Jamahiriyah is in a rather relaxed attire. From the outset he rejected the questions that Richard Binet wanted to put to him and directly addresses you, the French.

[Begin al-Qadhdhafi recording, in Arabic with French subtitles — translated from the Arabic] I am addressing France's [word indistinct] workers because of I am on the side of workers on the one hand, and in order to contribute in settling this difficult issue with our French friends, particularly our friend Jacques Chirac.

The al-Fatih revolution is the beginning of the era of the masses and that of the Jamahiriyah's. The world had gone through the phase of kingdoms that saw an end with the advent of the French revolution. The phase of republics began with the French revolution, and now we see the beginning of the era of Jamahiriyah's with the advent of the Libyan revolution.

I call upon all in France to read the Green Book, particularly the second chapter. I call on the French people to solve its problem with the Libyan people immediately. This is a simple issue. The UTA problem can be solved very easily.

The French judge may come to Libya at any time, hear the statements of the Libyans accused and any other witnesses. He can also acquaint himself with any facts as required. He can then issue his verdict in this case. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Libya: Secretariat Statement on French Premier's 'Accusations'

LD0803182196 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 8 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Rabia 8 [8 Mar] (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) — The General Secretariat of the General People's Committee of Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation issued a statement about the French prime minister's statement in the French National Assembly. The statement said the General Secretariat of the General People's Committee of Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation studied the statement given by Alain Juppe the French prime minister before the French National Assembly on the 5th of March 1996 concerning the violent incidents which took place in the occupied Palestinian territories in the last few days and in which he condemned Libya and accused it of welcoming those incidents.

At the time when the General Secretariat of the General People's Committee of Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation expresses its astonishment for involving Libya's name in this subject, it wishes to confirm the following:

First, the Great Jamahiriyah has confirmed in the past its vehement condemnation to all kinds of terrorist actions, especially state's terrorism which Libya considers itself as one of its victims.

Secondly, Libya, through its media, said that the true reasons which led to the escalation of violence in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and the responsibility of the Israelis for the strong violations of human rights, and the assassinations of the Palestinian leaders and the demolishing of their houses and the confiscation of their lands as well as the building of settlements and the refusal to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self determination and the establishment of their national independent state. This is a principle position of the Great Jamahiriyah which it will never abandoned under the forms of threats and accusations which have been expressed by the French official.

Thirdly, the Great Jamahiriyah strongly refuses the distortion of its position regarding the escalation of violence in the occupied Arab territories by Israelis in accordance with the interests and whims of the Western Zionist circles which intentionally continue inventing false accusations against the Jamahiriyah in an attempt to create an international hostile climate against it, in order to justify the continuation of the unjust measures imposed on the Libyan Arab people.

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Libya: Secretariat Warns France Against Linking Libya to Terrorism

LD0903205196 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The French foreign minister has made statements in which he echoed allegations on the Great Jamahiriyah linking it to what he called terrorism. French Channel 2 television quoted the French minister as saying that there were states, including Libya, that stirred up what he called problems.

In response to the French minister's statements, a source at the secretariat of the General People's Congress [parliament] said: The secretariat of the General People's Congress will bring a lawsuit against the French Government, and specifically against the French foreign minister for involving the name of the Great Jamahiriyah in so-called terrorism. The source further said: The secretariat of the General People's Congress will summon the French companies working in Libya to convey to them officially the fact that these racist statements, hostile to the Libyan Arab people, will cause damage to Arab-French economic interests. The source pointed out that the Great Jamahiriyah would be reconsidering the huge multi-billion dollar gas project that French companies were meant to realize, and the Great Jamahiriyah might decide to postpone this huge project.

Concluding its statement, the source affirmed that the French Government should realize very well that its economic interests in Libya were tied up to its political positions to the Libyan Arab people and the Arab nation, a fact stressed by the [basic] people's congresses, which hold both authority and decision power, through their political debates or discussions of the foreign policy of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Sudan: Cairo Summit Urged To 'Uproot' Terrorism

NC1103175096 Cairo MENA in English 1702 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo March 11 (MENA) — The General Sudanese Federation in Egypt has warmly welcomed President Husni Mubarak's call for convening the international peacemakers' summit.

In a statement today, the federation said President Mubarak's call has met with quick response from all world leaders.

The federation appealed to the summiteers to adopt strong and strict resolutions to uproot terrorism in Sudan, where the Khartoum regime has refused to comply with the relevant international resolutions.

Sudan: Al-Turabi Warns of 'Total Confrontation' With Islam

NC1103195196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese Islamic leader Dr. Hasan al-Turabi has said that the Sharm al-Shaykh summit in Egypt is one way for entering into total confrontation with Islam.

The leader of the National Islamic Front expressed fears that inter-Palestinian fighting could erupt if Yasir 'Arafat yields to international pressures to strike all Islamic movements.

Sudan: Report Reveals Rebellion in Armed Forces Units in South

NC1003150896 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Mar 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources very close to the Sudanese military command in the south of the country have disclosed the contents of a secret report, now being prepared, saying that a rebellion took place inside a combat unit and that some commanders joined forces with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. The report specifically refers to Colonel Abushra, commander of a military unit in al-Buhayrat Province, as the latest escapee. He fled in the past few days, among the continuing desertions by leading figures in the Sudanese forces.

The report says there is no control over the forces in charge of protecting the eastern sector of the city of Juba, where about five combat battalions fired indiscriminately using all types of weapons. They were expressing anger that they have not been replaced for four years, that they have been serving in difficult conditions, that all their supplies have been depleted, and that their needs have been ignored.

The report says the rebellious forces refused to obey the orders of their commander and warned him against intervening, since he had repeatedly failed to keep his promises of improving conditions. The report warns against the danger of rebellion expanding to involve other units in the region, especially given the worsening conditions, growing sense of resentment, and low morale among troops.

But the report says it is difficult to meet the demands of the rebellious forces, as this may be viewed as submission to them. The report says some Sudanese leaders proposed that commanders and elements behind the rebellion be either removed or physically eliminated in fabricated incidents so that they serve as a lesson to others, and so as to bring the situation under

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control before it expands to the Sudanese capital, where all indications are that a major popular movement against the government is expected during the upcoming presidential elections.

Sudan: Military Units in South of Country Said To Mutiny

MM1103161496 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Mar 96 p 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Military Units Mutiny in Southern Sudan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Informed Sudanese sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that some Sudanese Army units in southern Sudan have mutinied.

The sources said that three battalions belonging to the 3rd Brigade in the south mutinied recently and held two senior officers for some time before releasing them. The soldiers fired in the air to express their protest at a number of issues.

A military source said that the rebellion of these units is linked to widespread discontent within the Sudanese Army and its units operating in the south. The source said that many soldiers and officers are expressing their discontent because their service period in the south has expired and they want to return to Khartoum. And some of them are protesting at the government media's focus on the role of the Popular Forces and the mujahidin in the fighting, ignoring the Army's role, even though the regular Army has the real influence. Some officers are protesting at the way military operations are conducted in the south, saying that the war is not an issue enjoying national consensus or supported by all political forces in Sudan

The source pointed out that the Sudanese Government sent a senior military official from the General Command in Khartoum to meet with the mutinous units and discuss their demands. The meeting took place, and the military official promised the soldiers and troops that they will be returned to their original deployment locations as soon as possible, now that their service period has expired. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Would-Be Putschist Still at Large

MM1103145796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Mar 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im and Kamal Hamid: "Sudan: Staff Academy Colonel Led Attempted Coup"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Khartoum — Sudanese sources abroad said yesterday that the leader of the attempted coup — in connection with which the authorities arrested a number of people before they made their move — was still at large and that security forces were looking for him. The attempt had been scheduled for last Monday, the first day of the Sudanese elections.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that the leader of the attempted coup is Colonel 'Awad-al-Karim Muhammad Ibrahim, who worked in the Command and Staff Academy. The sources pointed out that Ibrahim worked on the national security organ in the days of former President Ja'far Numayri. The sources said that the plan was uncovered because the group had been infiltrated by a number of noncommissioned officers loyal to the government. No political group has claimed responsibility for the attempt or indicated a link with those involved. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Tunisia: Foreign Minister To Attend Cairo Conference

LD1103190396 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning met Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya, whom the head of state assigned to represent Tunisia at the international summit due to be held 13 March in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt.

On the occasion, the head of state reaffirmed Tunisia's support for the Middle East peace process and determination to continue its efforts to give impetus to the process and to help the Palestinian people to complete their legitimate rights and maintain a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

President Ben Ali gave the minister a letter for Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak which is within the context of continued consultations between the two brotherly presidents and countries and promoting bilateral relations.

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Arabian Peninsula: GCC, OIC Welcome Cairo Summit, Condemn Terrorism

LD1103135896 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, March 11, SPA — An official source at the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] secretariat general hoped that the international anti-terrorism conference, due to be convened in Egypt on Wednesday, would give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East and pave the way for a just and comprehensive peace in line with the international resolutions. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the secretariat general of the organization of Jeddah-based Islamic conference [OIC], has welcomed the conference and hoped that it will positively contribute to enhancing the pillars of peace in a way that realizes the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including their right to establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. The statement of the OIC's secretariat general called on the concerned parties to mobilize their efforts for realization of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

It is hoped that the conference will provide a good opportunity for the international community to confirm its adherence to extending the required support to the Palestinian National Authority, said the statement. The statement reiterated the inalienable stand of the OIC as regards to condemnation of all kinds of terrorism.

Arabian Peninsula: GCC Statement Expresses Hopes for Cairo Conference

LD1103205396 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC — based in Riyadh] General Secretariat has made a statement about the convening of an international summit in Sharm al-Shaykh on Wednesday 13 March saying:

We in the GCC, hope that the Sharm al-Shaykh Summit will give fresh impetus to the peace process in a way that guarantees justice and comprehensiveness and secures the legitimate demands of all the sides in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The source added: We also hope that the summit will send a clear message to all the parties concerned, reaffirming the international community's total rejection of all acts of violence and terrorism, whatever their source, cause, or justification, and the determination of participating countries to confront and blockade terrorism and to restrict the movement of terrorists and those who support them.

The GCC General Secretariat's official source said that terrorism has become an international threat and to confront it and uproot it was a responsibility that also required an international effort because the terrorists' supply lines and their activities overstepped state political boundaries and crossed continental geographic divisions.

He said that the GCC states had stressed their clear and candid stance regarding this destructive phenomenon at the highest level. Their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the GCC states, had discussed the issues of extremism, violence, and terrorism at the their recent summit in Muscat. They expressed their condemnation of all types and forms of terrorism because it aimed at: Spreading chaos, terror, and tension; the killing of innocents; and aimed at categorically opposing the principles of the true Islamic faith.

Bahrain

Bahrain: Delegation To Attend Cairo Antiterrorism Conference

JN1003111496 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 10 Mar (WAKH) — A responsible Bahraini source said that the State of Bahrain agreed to send a high-level delegation, led by Heir Apparent His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, to the peacemaking conference in Sharm al-Shaykh. The delegation will include Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

The source said Bahrain's participation stems from a conviction that peacemaking is associated with combating terrorism in the Middle East and that there is a strong relationship among the terrorist groups that masterminded the latest bombings in Bahrain and some terrorist groups in the Middle East.

The source added: Bahrain asserts the need for the summit to formulate a statement or political document on world coordination to combat terrorism politically, by adopting security measures, and in the media.

The source noted that Bahrain has formulated a political and information-related working paper that urges new regulations and laws as part of an international information agreement to confront the proliferation of terrorism via the mass media.

The source added: Bahrain has adopted the viewpoint that the local laws for protecting the security and national interests of each country are no longer effective, given the global village created by the electronic communications revolution. This revolution, in addition to

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satellites and space channels, means that local information from any country now concerns not only that country, but also other countries. This calls for new regulations that take international interests and the security and stability of other countries into account.

Bahrain: Heir Apparent on U.S. Visit, Cairo Antiterrorism Conference

JN1103204396 Manama Bahrain Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, visited the MBC Television station, at 1500 London time today. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and some members of his delegation. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, MBC held a televised interview with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force. He praised the excellent and very modern standard of the MBC Television center, which serves the Arab as well as the humanitarian message.

Asked about his visit to the United States, his highness said that this visit comes within the framework of continuous contacts between Bahrain and the United States to discuss issues of importance to the Gulf region and to stability and security in the world.

On whether there were any new agreements reached in the defense field, his highness the heir apparent said that the two sides agreed on more cooperation. He added that an agreement was reached to receive a modern air defense system and a very modern frigate that simultaneously carries out many duties to serve security and peace.

Asked about his participation in the peacemakers conference due to be held in Sharm al-Shaykh on Wednesday [13 March], his highness said that this conference is a good meeting to curb threats. His highness said he believes that in light of this, there can be joint measures to combat terrorism. His highness stressed that terrorism has become a disease like any other disease.

In reply to a question on acts of violence in Bahrain, which were quickly brought under control, and whether Bahrain was going to recommend that the conference take certain measures in the Gulf region or in the Arab region, in general, his highness said that this has become a global rather than a Gulf issue.

At the end of the interview, his highness the heir apparent congratulated MBC workers, wishing them continuous success. His highness the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces was cordially seen off.

Bahrain: Heir Apparent Meets Christopher, Condemns Blasts in Israel

JN0903204496 Manama Bahrain Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, met yesterday with Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state at the U.S. State Department in Washington.

At the end of the meeting, his highness the heir apparent expressed thanks and appreciation for His Excellency President Bill Clinton, his deputy, and the secretary of state for their support for preserving security and stability in the Gulf region.

His highness expressed Bahrain's full support for, and cooperation to realize comprehensive peace in the region. His highness voiced his condemnation of the recent explosions in Israel, and hoped that such incidents would not recur in our region.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations, issues of mutual concern, latest developments in the Gulf region, and the Middle East peace process.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak; his highness Shaykh Salman Bin-Hamad Bin-'Isa, undersecretary of the Defense Ministry; Shaykh Khalid Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, head of the diwan of his highness the heir apparent; and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, the Bahraini ambassador in Washington.

In a joint news conference with Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the U.S. secretary of state welcomed his highness the heir apparent's visit to the United States, and hailed the friendly bilateral relations.

He said Bahrain is a friendly country to the United States and an important partner in defending the security of the Gulf region. Christopher said the two countries work together to develop the joint interest in preserving security and stability in the Middle East. He praised Bahrain's support for peace in the region and its condemnation of the explosions that occurred in Israel recently.

He said Bahrain is invited in the international conference on fighting terrorism, which is due to be held in the Egyptian city of Sharm al-Shaykh next Wednesday. He emphasized that the two countries are committed to work together to confront the threats facing peace and security in the region, and said Washington

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will continue its efforts to preserve security in the Gulf and fighting terrorism targeting the Middle East peace process.

On his part, Shaykh Muhammad hailed the strong friendly relations between Bahrain and the United States. [under minute break in transmission] and said we all should cooperate in organizing international efforts to condemn and confront terrorism everywhere. He expressed appreciation for the U.S. role in preserving security and stability in the Gulf region.

Bahrain: Heir Apparent Meets Perry, Comments on Military Cooperation

JN0903213496 Manama Bahrain Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the [Bahrain] Defense Force [BDF], began the third day of his official visit to the United States by visiting the U.S. Defense Department, the Pentagon, and the General Joint Chiefs of Staff headquarters. [passage omitted] Afterward, a session of talks was held between the heir apparent and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. [passage omitted]

Perry delivered a speech in which he stressed the importance of U.S.-Bahraini relations, and lauded the role Bahrain is playing in preserving security and stability in the Gulf region.

Following his talks with the heir apparent, Perry pointed to the strong bilateral relations which the United States appreciates and takes pride in. He hailed the visit he paid to Bahrain last year as well as his meetings with senior Bahraini officials. He said these meetings achieved positive results which will reflect on relations between both friendly countries.

In a reply speech, his highness the heir apparent lauded the deep good relations between both friendly countries and stressed that Bahrain looks forward to enhancing and expanding these relations.

Afterward, the Military Cooperation Committee [MCC] concluded its meetings. The Bahraini side was led by the heir apparent and the U.S. side was led by Frederick Smith, acting assistant defense secretary for international security affairs.

Following the committee's work, His Highness Shaykh Salman Bin-Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, under secretary of the Defense Ministry, gave the following statement:

On this occasion, it gives me pleasure to laud the fruitful and positive results of the meetings of this committee. We found much readiness and support from the U.S. side to enhance the scope of military cooperation. The work of this committee will witness further development in the future.

In fact, military cooperation between our two countries [under minute break in transmission] Bahrain with a frigate to bolster its combat capabilities.

2. The BDF will acquire a developed air defense system which will enter service in the near future.

3. Joint exercises will continue because they have positive results.

It was agreed that the MCC will hold its coming meeting in Bahrain.

The heir apparent also met with General Binford Peay, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, at the U.S. Defense Department yesterday. They discussed ways to enhance bilateral military cooperation and the need to expand it in light of the outcome of the MCC's meetings. They also stressed that cooperation would intensify to include all military fields. [passage omitted]

Bahrain: Bank Bombers Said To Have 'Foreign Connections'

NC1003144996 Paris AFP in English 1424 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, March 10 (AFP) — Authorities said here on Sunday [10 March] that a Bahraini injured while planting a bomb in Manama earlier in the week has admitted to having foreign connections.

Bahrain's Interior Ministry identified the three perpetrators of the bombing Wednesday at a branch of the National Bank of Bahrain as Shiite Moslems.

Hasan Tahir Muhammad Samih, a 24-year-old student from the Jidd Hafs suburb west of the capital, was killed when a home-made bomb he tried to plant at a bank branch in 'Isa Town, 10 kilometers (six miles) south of the capital, exploded.

Muhammad Salman Mahmud Mukhtar, 31, a technician for a local company, was seriously injured, while 'Aqil Naji Khalaf, a 29-year-old driver, was lightly hurt. The bombing caused no other injuries.

It was the first death in a spate of bomb attacks this year which have been blamed on Shiite Moslem protestors who are demanding a restoration of the parliament which the mainly Sunni Moslem authorities suspended in 1975.

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According to a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, cited by the official GNA news agency, "the confession of 'Aqil Naji Khalaf before the judge includes extremely important information concerning criminal acts committed by terrorist groups and their ties inside and outside the country."

The spokesman did not identify the foreign connections.

Bahraini newspapers have accused Shiite Moslem Iran of being behind the unrest. Manama expelled an Iranian diplomat on February 1 which prompted a tit-for-tat expulsion by Tehran.

Bahrain: Opposition Spokesman Interviewed on Unrest in Country

NC1103204696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Bahraini Opposition Spokesman Mansur al-Jamri by Mahdi Hasan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] On the eve of Bahraini Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah's visit to Washington, the BAHRAINI NEWS AGENCY announced that the United States will provide Bahrain with a frigate and an advanced air defense system. Do you believe this development is connected with the Bahraini- Qatari border dispute?

[Al-Jamri] I believe public relations firms employed by the government have begun formulating news in a way that gives the impression that the United States decided on these matters today, after the heir apparent's visit. These public relations firms are also trying to give the impression that the U.S. Government supports the repression of the Bahraini people, the murder of their youth, and the arrest of their leaders, who call for the restitution of the constitution. I believe these reports are drafted in a certain style. The fact is that U.S. congressional committees discussed the frigate, equipment, and other weapons at the end of last year, that is, several months ago. These committees agreed to give these surplus weapons as a gift in a gesture of thanks for the U.S. military facilities in Bahrain. This matter was discussed at length by the Congress military and foreign committees in September 1995. But, it seems that the public relations firms have chosen to highlight the gift after the visit. The U.S. army has a lot of surplus weapons. The United States decided to replace a number of aircraft with more advanced ones and to equip some missiles leftover from the Gulf war with modern devices.

[Hasan] Has the Bahraini Government recently changed its stand on the Bahraini people's demands?

[Al-Jamri] A written question-and-answer interview distributed by the delegation accompanying the heir apparent to a number of loyal Saudi journalists says that Bahrain does not need a parliament, that Bahrain has been governed by the Al Khalifah clan for over 200 years, and hence there is no need for a parliament. Yes, there are elections for the labor committee and for chambers of commerce. Before, 75 years ago, we had municipal elections. But now the borders between cities have disappeared. If after one, five, or ten years, they decide to restore the borders, they will hold municipal elections as we had 75 years ago. This is the language they used. The written question-and-answer interview distributed in the name of the heir apparent accused the opposition of naivete because it calls for a democracy and derives some ideas from the West. The heir apparent forgot, or the one who wrote and distributed that interview forgot, that the Bahraini people are not demanding something new but are demanding something that they used to have. The Bahraini people are not naive. They are not demanding things alien to Bahraini society, as the interview claims. We had an elected parliament from 1973 to 1975. There was respect for human rights in Bahrain. This is what we are demanding now. Kuwait has a similar parliament. We are not demanding something alien to the Gulf.

The funny thing is that the interviews say that Bahrain does not want to wear new clothes. Therefore, it rejects the return of parliament.

[Hasan] Is the Bahraini parliament still demanding its rights?

[Al-Jamri] These are firm and inalienable rights. Human rights are violated in Bahrain these days. The written interview noted that there were 12 dead, over whom the heir apparent expressed regret. This is the first official acknowledgement that there are 12 dead. The death list includes three or four security men. In fact, there are 14 martyrs, in addition to the three or four security men. We have received films on last month's events in Bahrain. We see in them how security men speaking broken arabic attacked houses, broke furniture, and beat people. We have pictures of children, women, and old men who were attacked by the foreign security forces when they stormed houses. There are signs of heavy beating on their bodies. We believe the current visit of the heir apparent to London and Washington will lead to exposure of more of the measures and the violations, brutality, and collective punishment carried out by the foreign forces in Bahrain.

We are living in a critical period. The Bahraini people have crossed the barrier of fear. They are living golden days in recording the meaning of defending rights.

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Therefore, the government is trying to resort to violence in order to link the demand for rights to violence. The whole world knows that the government has resorted to violence and terrorism. It is trying to expand violence in Bahrain so that the press will then publish that the government is facing a terrorist wave and not a national movement. We are confident that such acts will not succeed, god willing.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Summit Attendance Stems From Rejection of Terrorism

LD1103214896 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait has affirmed that its participation in the peacemakers summit scheduled for Wednesday [13 March] in Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt stems from its strong rejection of terrorism and its firm conviction in the necessity of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East which will not overlook the rights of Syria and Lebanon.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who will lead the Kuwaiti delegation to the Sharm al-Shaykh Summit, stressed that Kuwait's participation in this summit stems from its desire to keep the wheel of peace turning in the region until the achievement of peace, and also between Israel and both Syria and Lebanon, so that the peace process does not suffer any hindrance or stoppage through any terrorist action.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad warned that any failure by the concerned parties would prevent the region from realizing the aspirations of stability and security.

Kuwait: Interior Minister on Rejecting Terrorism, Border Security

LD0903102396 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0729 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Mar (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah today confirmed that Kuwait rejects violence and extremism, and strongly condemns all forms of terrorism, whatever its motives may be.

He said that the Kuwaiti people who faced terrorism at the time of the odious Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait with determination, will stand again against any terrorist attempt, whether inside or outside Kuwait.

Shaykh 'Ali said in a meeting with the Kuwaiti news agency that the majority of governments in the world which suffer from terrorism, which has become "an international characteristic," must stand strongly against all forms of terrorist acts which aim to frighten those who feel secure, and to obstruct the march of construction and progress which every state seeks. [passage omitte]

Regarding the prevention of Iraqi infiltrators from entering Kuwait via the northern border, Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah pointed out that all security measures have been taken to prevent infiltrators from crossing the Kuwaiti border and that the construction of a fourth wall has had an effective impact on greatly limiting the danger of infiltrators. He said that in the event of some infiltrators managing to cross the border, they will be confronted by the border security guard, who are constantly laying in wait for them with total vigilance. [passage omitted] He added that by the end of this year, modern electronic devices will be installed all along the Kuwaiti land border with Iraq, which is 220 kms long, in order to achieve total control over the border area. [passage omitted]

Kuwait: Foreign Ministry Questions Polish Envoy on Arms to Iraq

LD0903185996 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Mar — Kuwait today informed Poland that any supply of military equipment to Iraq would be in breach of the international embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti news agency, sources from the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry indicated that Shaykh 'Ali al-'Abdallah al-Ahmad, director of the European department at the ministry, met with the Polish ambassador to Kuwait and informed him about this position. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry sources added that Shaykh al-Ahmad had asked the Polish ambassador to comment on the recent reports that weapons intercepted at 'Alia International Airport were from Poland and were destined for Iraq.

Kuwait: KUNA Accuses Iraq of Lying About Helicopter Spare Parts

LD1003151196 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0604 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 10 Mar (KUNA) — In a linking series of lies, Iraq has claimed that the shipment of aircraft spare parts which Jordan intercepted last Thursday, [7 March] and banned from reaching the Baghdad regime had been approved earlier

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by the UN Security Council [UNSC]. A document, a copy of which KUNA has obtained, says that Iraq lied yet again and tried to circumvent the will of the international community to impose sanctions on it when the latter fabricated the approval of the UNSC Sanctions Committee on the abovementioned shipment.

This shipment of aircraft spare parts was intercepted in Jordan, at Amman International Airport, and was banned from heading for Iraq. The shipment was loaded in Poland with notes alleging that it was agricultural equipment, as a disguise. It was revealed in Jordan last Thursday that the equipment was for military use.

In March last year the UNSC Sanctions Committee had actually approved an urgent shipment of agricultural equipment spare parts which Iraq needed for crop spraying and irrigation projects to be constructed in the exclusion zones in the north and south.

This has brought to light a letter sent by the then head of the Sanctions Committee, the German Ambassador [to the UN] Detlef Count Rantzen [name as received], to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO]. The FAO had handed the sanctions committee a letter dated 18 January 1996 to the effect that the Iraqi project had been carried out in the period between March and October 1995. Since then, the Sanctions Committee have not received any other request from Iraq to import more equipment for the Iraqi irrigation projects in the north and south. The Iraqi request for agreement remained dependent on the agreement of the committee to the first request. [sentence as received]

However, the Baghdad regime claimed that it had obtained an agreement from the Sanctions Committee to the recent equipment consignment seized in Jordan and this contradicts the statement by Mr. 'Abbas, the Iraqi undersecretary at the agriculture ministry, in his letter of 27 November 1995 to the FAO which had acted as an intermediary. In his letter, Mr. 'Abbas asked the Sanctions Committee for permission for the spare parts to be stored in helicopters to be used in the 1996 agriculture irrigation campaign. The sanctions committee agreed to this request after it had been fully approved by the FAO.

The contact made by 'Abbas shows that Iraq does not need new spare parts because the spare parts in stock in Iraq since the last irrigation campaign, are still available for this year's irrigation campaign.

The FAO representative in Baghdad, Emir Khalil of Sudan contacted N. H. 'Abd al-Hadi [both names as received] of Egypt, a FAO official in the Rome headquarters.

The Sanctions Committee was set up by Security Council Resolution 661 of 6 April 1990 in order to supervise imports and exports to and from Iraq and third parties which are giving exceptional aid for humanitarian reasons.

The irrigation campaign "spraying" quoted in the Iraqi project is considered as a humanitarian issue. The Sanctions Committee approved the request for spare parts on the basis that they were going to be used in the irrigation operation "spraying" by non-Iraqi air crews.

There were other conditions which require the FAO to inform the Sanctions Committee about the consignment 72 hours before its delivery and that the equipment should remain under FAO control.

Oman

Oman: Delegation To Attend Cairo Antiterrorism Summit

JN1003154896 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to an invitation extended to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, requesting the sultanate's participation in the international summit on the Middle East peace process and combating terrorism, to be held in Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt on Wednesday [13 March], the Sultanate has announced it will participate in this conference. The Sultanate will participate out of its eagerness to support the peace process and to realize just and comprehensive peace between the Arabs and Israel by means of the peaceful negotiations currently underway between the concerned parties. The sultanate calls on these parties to intensify their cooperation and efforts on both the regional and international levels to defeat and circumvent the attempts to obstruct the peace process at the expense of stability and security in the region. The sultanate condemns all terrorist acts and settlement of differences by force and by killing of unarmed people.

The sultanate will be represented at this conference by a high-level delegation led by His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab Al Sa'id, the personal representative of his majesty the sultan. The delegation includes His Highness Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib, interior minister; His Highness 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas, information minister; His Highness Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and His Highness 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad Bin-Sayf al-Busa'idi, Oman's ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt and the permanent representative at the Arab League.

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Oman: Attempt To Organize GCC Meeting on Qatar Fails

NC1003113596 Paris AFP in English 0959 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muscat, March 10 (AFP) — Oman said Sunday [10 March] it had failed in its attempt to convene an emergency meeting of Gulf Arab states to discuss an aborted coup in neighbouring Qatar.

Qatar had asked for a special meeting of foreign ministers from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to raise the issue of the coup bid on February 17.

"Oman has stopped its efforts to hold the meeting requested by Qatar following the recent internal events, as the sultanate has not obtained the agreement of other members," an Omani Foreign Ministry statement said.

Oman was the only GCC member to condemn the reported coup in Qatar. Qatar has been at odds with the other members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — after it walked out of a GCC summit in December.

A Gulf official said recently that Saudi Arabia and Bahrain feared an emergency GCC meeting would provoke a crisis in the Gulf Arab pact after Qatar hinted at their possible involvement in the coup attempt.

The Omani statement, quoted by the state-run news agency ONA, said Qatar had wanted the emergency meeting to express solidarity between member countries.

Oman sent its minister of state for foreign affairs to other members in an attempt to win their support for the meeting.

Oman: Foreign Ministry Statement on Failure to Hold GCC Meeting

JN1003161496 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 96

["Text" of statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 22 February 1996, the State of Qatar called for the convening of an extraordinary meeting to demonstrate the spirit of cooperation and solidarity among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states following the internal events, which Qatar announced recently, in accordance with the constitutional law of the GCC states, stipulating that an extraordinary meeting would meet at the request of any member and with the support of another member.

Out of its concern to implement the Qatari request, Oman — in its capacity as the current chairman of the GCC — tried to convene this meeting then to achieve reconciliation. To achieve this, Qatar exerted continuous and persistent efforts over the past weeks. However, it was not able to obtain the required support from the other countries. Consequently, the sultanate regrets to announce that it has suspended its efforts in this regard, wishing all success.

Qatar

Qatar: Deputy Premier To Attend Cairo Antiterrorism Conference

NC1103200496 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Qatar's deputy prime minister and interior minister, will lead his country's delegation to the peacemakers' summit in Sharm al-Shaykh.

This was stated by the Qatari Ambassador in Cairo Mani' 'Abd-al- Hadi al-Hajiri. He said that the delegation will include Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr and senior Qatari officials.

Qatar: Foreign Minister on Recent Incidents, Relations With GCC

JN0803193396 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 4-10 Mar 96 p 4

[Interview with Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jabir Al Thani by Sulayman Nimr in Muscat; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nimr] You accused some neighboring Gulf states of being involved in the coup attempt. Do you not believe that such accusations will strain relations between you and sisterly states?

[Al Thani] Actually, it was not a coup d'etat, it was a subversive act against Qatar. But we did not accuse any country by name and did not declare the involvement of any state, because investigations are still under way.

[Nimr] But press reports in Doha pointed to some states?

[Al Thani] As you are aware, we have a free press in Qatar and everyone says what they want to say. But, even our Qatari papers did not mention the name of any sisterly country in this regard out of our eagerness to preserve fraternal relations with other states. However, if we become convinced that one of the Gulf states is involved, first of all we would try to discuss the matter with that state in a frank and fraternal manner. But, the

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investigations are not through yet, and when they are, we will reveal what we have to our brothers first.

[Nimr] What did the preliminary investigations reveal?

[Al Thani] As we said, the preliminary investigations indicate that there was a conspiracy with the participation of foreign parties to undermine Qatar's security and harm the Qatari Government in general. As we mentioned in the official statement, there are foreign hands in this conspiracy .

[Nimr] How do you explain the Gulf silence on the incidents in Qatar?

[Al Thani] I do not wish to comment on this subject at present.

[Nimr] But you called for an urgent meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] to discuss what happened in Qatar, and so far there has been no answer?

[Al Thani] That is why I do not want to comment because I am still waiting to see if this call for a meeting is approved or not.

[Nimr] Did you really ask the United States to intervene for convening this meeting?

[Al Thani] We did not do so. But since the United States is a friend to Qatar and the other countries and since it is eager to preserve stability in the region, it supported our idea of a meeting with our brothers in the Gulf states.

[Nimr] Do you see yourselves isolated in the region?

[Al Thani] This is not true. We are not isolated, and we do not want them [not further identified] to deceive us and our people into believing that we are isolated. We are in a country that is open to all the world and we have good relations with all the important and not so important countries in the world.

[Nimr] How do you explain the fact that no comment was made by any of the GCC states regarding the incidents in Qatar?

[Al Thani] I will not comment on this subject. However, we hope that they are waiting for the ministerial council meeting to denounce the incidents.

[Nimr] Do you believe that what is taking place will further strain relations with neighboring states?

[Al Thani] As far as we are concerned, no; as far as others are concerned, maybe. However, our relations with the GCC states go back to the time of our fathers and forefathers, before the GCC was established. God willing, our relations with the peoples and governments of the region will continue. Qatar is eager to preserve fraternal relations with the GCC states. If there is any coolness in relations, then this should be discussed to find why and how to remedy this.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Foreign Minister To Head Delegation to Cairo Summit

LD0903235696 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2335 GMT 9 MAR 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 9 Mar — An authoritative source has announced that His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, will be, God willing, leading the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the anti-terror conference due to convene at Sharm al-Shaykh, in Egypt, on Wednesday.

The source reiterated that the Kingdom's presence at this summit conference is a strong indication of the Kingdom's policies aimed at bolstering the peace process in the Middle East and rejection of all forms and manifestations of terrorism given their serious repercussion on the security and the achievements of peoples everywhere.

Saudi Arabia: Prince Sultan Questioned on Cairo Summit, Media Campaigns

LD1103102396 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2232 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 10 Mar — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz [Al Sa'ud], the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, affirmed that honoring of science and scientists and King Faysal charitable institute's allocation of annual prizes for creative people in the scientific, literary, and Islamic fields was a source of pride for the Saudi leadership and people.

This came in a statement made by his highness to correspondents following the awarding of King Faysal International awards to the winners during a ceremony held on the occasion this evening.

Replying to a question on the anti-terrorism summit which will be held, God willing, in Egypt coming Wednesday, his royal highness said: "We should not preempt events." On his highness's talks with the British defense secretary, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia, he made clear that the present joint projects between the two countries which have been agreed upon were discussed. [passage omitted]

On the tendentious media campaigns which Saudi Arabia has been experiencing, his highness the second deputy [prime minister] said: "The Saudi people, praise

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to God, are confident in their leadership and their leadership is confident in its people." His highness chose not to comment on whether Saudi Arabia has taken a decision regarding the tanks it wishes to acquire.

On his highness views regarding the future of the armed forces appropriate to the status of the kingdom, his highness said: "Plans are proceeding in the right and positive direction which does not conflict with the country's development plans."

Saudi Arabia: Council of Ministers Reiterates Stance Against Terrorism

LD1103203296 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, described the 11th National Festival for Heritage and Culture as embodying the heritage of the past and connecting the present culture with the future in a way which formed an integrated unity of behaviors, standard, and ideas. [passage omitted]

HRH Prince 'Abdallah made these remarks after he presided over the Council of Ministers' Meeting which was held this afternoon at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

In the statement which he gave to SPA at the end of the meeting, His Excellency Dr. Fu'ad Bin 'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi, the information minister, pointed out that HRH reiterated Saudi Arabia's permanent stance toward the terrorism issue and stressed that the kingdom, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, rejected terrorism in form and content, anywhere and by anyone. The statement recognized that the peoples' interests required international cooperation to put a complete end to this international problem. [passage omitted]

At the Arab level, HRH reviewed recent developments in the Arab arena, pointing out that the Arab solidarity to which Saudi Arabia under King Fahd's leadership looked forward, was a solidarity based on a conscious understanding to confront the current and future challenges in the light of the Arab nation's conviction of the prevalence of the spirit of brotherhood, love, welfare, and peace, together with benefiting from the experiences of the past.

At the international level, the information minister said that HRH emphasized that Saudi Arabia was an indivisible part of the international community which rejoiced over its happiness and grieved at its pains. Thus, it was believed that constructive international cooperation was sufficient for the countries of the world to achieve their aspirations in building a world free of weapons of mass destruction in which they are replaced by a comprehensive development which will build man and ensure for him a life with dignity, justice, and equality. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Paper Claims Israeli Right-Wing Connived in Terror Bombings

LD1203102596 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0304 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 12 Mar — Today's Saudi newspapers carried the following headlines:

"The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques [King Fahd] congratulates the president of Mauritius on his country's Independence Anniversary"

"Prince Sultan-King Faysal prize is for services to science and Islam, and not for propaganda for the kingdom" [passage omitted]

Regarding the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, AL-MADINAH said that a rare opportunity is open to Palestinian President 'Arafat to reveal before the biggest and weightiest international gathering for combating terrorism the real conniving role of the Israeli right-wing forces in the recent explosions which have hit Jerusalem, Ashqelon, and then Tel Aviv.

The newspaper added that there is an opportunity for the participants in Sharm al-Shaykh to learn about the plain truth, without already prepared charges against Arabs and Muslims, and decide — if they really wanted to confront terrorism — to adopt the policies that will ensure that terrorism is checked on both sides. Naturally, topping the list would be the evacuation of Israeli settlements which have always been centers of eruption and causes of destruction in the Palestinian territory.

The newspaper asked who will be the main beneficiary of undermining Peres' electoral position. That would definitely not be 'Arafat, definitely not Jordan which has been moving fast toward normalization with Israel, and definitely not Syria which has been engaged in negotiations with the Labor Party government, which have begun to see some progress.

The newspaper said that the interest factor seems to be lacking in the aforementioned Arab sides. [passage omitted]

The newspaper said that taking the quantity of explosives used in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv into the heart of Israel despite strict security measures, which did not allow a fly to enter without stopping and questioning

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it, could not have been done without some help from Israelis who would not have done that without having motives. The motives can easily be identified by simply asking the question about who would benefit beside those who have declared their responsibility for the explosions.

The newspaper concluded by pointing out that the move to contain attempts to blow up peace efforts must of necessity include Israeli extremist right-wing forces. Otherwise all the efforts made by those who were talking about saving peace from extremist forces will have been wasted. "Search in Israel first if you want security and peace to be established," the newspaper said.

Saudi Arabia: CDLR Protagonists Issue Joint Statement

MM1203110196

[FBIS Report] The following is the text of a fax issued in Arabic by the Islamic Reform Movement and the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) in London on 11 March:

"In the name of God the Merciful, Compassionate,

"Praise be to God, guardian of believers and destroyer of tyrants, and prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of the messengers, our master Muhammad, his family, and all his companions.

"Recent developments in the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights have been covered in detail. Their circumstances and effects have saddened the nation — which proves the nation's appreciation for the committee's role and work for God's cause.

"To uproot the sedition, safeguard the committee's achievements, and prevent further subversion and harm to the reform march; out of loyalty to those who have died and those who are behind bars for the sake of this march; and to preempt the tendentious elements and enemies who wish reformers every misfortune and those who spread false rumors and forged statements;

"We announce that — with the help of Almighty God — we have surmounted the crisis and the tendentious campaign in which the Al Sa'ud's intelligence organs and media participated.

"We also announce that it has been agreed to continue the work through two independent entities. They are: the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, represented by Dr. Muhammad al- Mas'ari, and the Islamic Reform Movement [al-harakah al-islamiyah li al-islah], represented by Dr. Sa'd al-Faqih.

"After this joint statement, we pray to God that the work of all parties be aimed at satisfying Him. The end of their cry will be: Praise be to God, sustainer of all worlds. [Koranic verse]"

[Signed] "Dr. Sa'd Bin-Rashid al-Faqih for the Islamic Reform Movement; Dr. Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah al-Mas'ari for the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights."

[Dated] "London, Monday 22 Shawwal 1416 H corresponding to 11 March 1996."

United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates: Foreign Minister To Attend Cairo Conference

JN1003154996 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Mar (WAKH)— It was announced here today that the United Arab Emirates has agreed to participate in the peacemaking conference that is designed to fight terrorism. The conference will be held in Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt on Wednesday [13 March].

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, a responsible source said that Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah would represent the United Arab Emirates at the summit conference.

United Arab Emirates: Paper Views Efforts To Curb Attacks on Israel

JN1103140396 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 8 Mar 96 p 21

[Editorial: "The Appropriate Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] International and regional calls have increased for convening summit conferences to coordinate measures against violent actions carried out by Palestinian factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli peace process in its current form.

Undoubtedly, coordinating efforts in this field can yield adequate results in curbing the activities of these factions in one way or another, but it will not lead to a final halt to these activities regardless of the forces that gather against them and the tight security measures adopted to combat them.

The decisive solution for the suicide attacks that take place from time to time does not lie in convening international or regional conferences to confront them, or in sending modern technological equipment to Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Likewise, closure of the Palestinian territories will not stop the attacks because

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the Palestinian suicide bombers are present inside Israel itself.

The required solution is simpler than this. It is related to Israel in the first place, and then to the United States and the Palestinian Authority. It lies in easing the excessive Israeli measures and giving the Palestinian people some of their legitimate rights.

The continued detention of thousands of Palestinians in Israeli prisons and the continuation of the policy of settlement, confiscation of Palestinian lands under the pretext of ensuring the security of the Israeli settlers, the pressures the Israeli authorities are putting on 115,000 people in Hebron in the interest of 200 Israeli settlers, and the arrogance and superiority complex with which Israel deals with all peoples of the Middle East—all these lead to explosions and escalation of military activities against Israel.

The Israeli Government is required to seriously reconsider all the measures taken and all the mistakes committed in dealing with these crises. It will then be clear to Israel that it should deal with the Palestinians as a people who are entitled to legitimate rights and that it should give them these rights. Once this is done, there will be no need for all these strict measures or these regional and international conferences.

Yemen

Yemen: Invitation to Cairo Antiterrorism Conference Accepted

JN1003132196 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, chaired a meeting of the leaders of the government coalition, which is made up of the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. Also present at the meeting were the leaders of other Yemeni parties and political organizations. Brother Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the vice president, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, consultations and discussions dealt with the regional, Arab, and international developments of interest to our country, the most prominent of which is the invitation addressed to our country by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton to participate in the peacemakers summit in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt, on 13 March.

After elaborate discussions on all issues related to our country's participation in the conference, the conferees approved our country's participation in the conference. This decision is necessitated by the highest national interests and is in line with our country's principled faith in the need to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region on the basis of regaining the legitimate Arab rights and ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon.

The conferees also discussed many issues and developments on the national front, including the French mediation efforts to resolve the differences with Eritrea as a result of its aggression against Yemen's al-Hanish al-Kabir Island. The conferees reiterated our country's insistence on its full sovereignty over al-Hanish al-Kabir Island and on its support for all efforts to resolve the differences over the maritime borders with Eritrea through peaceful means to bolster security and stability and ensure the safety of international navigation in the Red Sea.

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Iraq: 'Mujahidin' Attack Chemical Weapons Depot in Al-Basrah City

JN1103170996 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to destroy the basic means of the collapsing Saddamist regime, a group of the Islamic revolution mujahidin have attacked a chemical weapons depot in the city of al-Basrah. Mujahidin sources said that the heroic operation targeted a secret, tightly-guarded building containing chemical weapons depots. They added that a brief clash between the mujahidin and the building guards occurred, killing two of the mercenaries and wounding three others.

The jihad sources asserted that the operation was part of efforts to foil any attempt to use chemical weapons by the said regime and to prevent the tyrant from repeating the crime he committed in (Abu Zurgi) marshlands in 1993, when he used chemical weapons against the mujahidin and tribes in (?al-Jur) marshlands in al-Basrah Governorate.

Iraq: UNSCOM Official Calls Talks in Baghdad 'Fruitful'

JN1103174296 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA)—Charles Duelfer, deputy chairman of the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM], asserted that talks with Iraqi officials were constructive and fruitful.

Before leaving Baghdad today, he gave a news conference attended by correspondents of foreign news agencies and television networks, local newspapers, and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY. He said that Iraq renewed its pledge to continue full cooperation with the UNSCOM and described his visit to Iraq as fruitful and very satisfactory.

He added that the talks with the Iraqi side are proceeding in a good way despite the standoff outside the Irrigation Ministry building in Baghdad.

The UN official asserted that his team has not got any documents related to the UNSCOM's mission during its search in the building.

The Iraqi competent authorities had assured the team that the building was the headquarters of the Ministry of Irrigation, but that the UNSCOM insisted on its position and refused to admit Iraq's credibility until some members of the team were allowed by the Iraqi authorities to enter the building, where they did not find anything.

Duefler expected UNSCOM Chairman Ambassador Rolf Ekeus to visit Iraq at the end of this month. However, he said, Ekeus has not yet made up his mind on whether to pay the visit.

Iraq: Al-Anbari Arrives New York for Second Round of UN Talks

JN1103092096 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 11 Mar (INA) — Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari arrived here last night to lead the Iraqi delegation to the second round of the dialogue with the UN General Secretariat on oil for food, medicine, and other basic requirements for the Iraqi people. The second round is scheduled to begin later today.

A correspondent for the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in New York reported that the Iraqi delegation includes representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Industry and Minerals, and the Central Bank. Those representatives arrived late last night to take part in the first session of the second round of the dialogue.

Iraq: UN Oil-for-Food Talks Resume in New York

JN1103170296 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1558 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated excerpt] New York, 11 Mar (INA)—A short while ago, the delegations of Iraq and the United Nations began the second session of their technical dialogue on the exchange of oil for food, medicine, and other basic needs for the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi delegation to the second session of the dialogue is headed by 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari and includes representatives from The Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, and the Central Bank of Iraq.

The UN General Secretariat delegation is headed by Hans Corell, acting secretary general for legal affairs, and includes representatives from, oil, trade, banking, and humanitarian affairs.

Al-Anbari and Corell exchanged welcoming speeches before a large number of journalists and camera men in front of a painting by the renowned Spanish painter, Picasso, on the second story of the UN building before moving along with the members of the two delegations to the 35th story to hold the first session of their second round.

In a statement to Journalists, Dr. al-Anbari expressed his satisfaction with the resumption of the second round of

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the talks. He asserted that the results of the first round will enable the two delegations to cover outstanding issues during the second round. He voiced his hope that the two delegations would cover all the practical points pertaining to the proposed exchange of oil for food, medicine, and other basic needs.

Dr. al-Anbari also expressed hope that the UN General Secretariat delegation shared the Iraqi delegation's hope for success and finishing the mission in a satisfactory way. The head of the Iraqi delegation pointed out that the first round did not cover all elements and that the two delegations may be able to tackle all issues during the second round.

Dr. al-Anbari and Hans Corell then exchanged welcoming speeches before journalists. Dr. al-Anbari said that the Iraqi delegation will do its best to make the talks successful. [passage omitted]

Iraq: UN Oil-for-Food Talks in Recess

JN1103203796 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first session of the second round of dialogue between the delegations of Iraq and the UN General Secretariat has come to an end. The United Nations this afternoon announced that all matters not covered during the first session of the dialogue were discussed in this session.

A correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in New York learned that the two delegations will hold another session at 1700 today, New York time, 0100 tomorrow [12 March], Baghdad time.

Iraq: Oil-for-Food Talks Said 'Only a Step' Toward End of Blockade

JN0903105996 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA) — Despite all its merits and expected results, the dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations on exchanging oil for food, medicine, and the basic needs of the Iraqi people is only a step along the path toward the complete lifting of the economic blockade, an Iraqi paper asserted.

In an editorial published today under the headline "Exchanging Oil for Humanitarian Needs: A Solution or a Step Toward the Solution?", AL-JUMHURIYAH says that exchanging oil for humanitarian supplies is not a decision to end the economic blockade. It is a periodic measure that will be renewed every three months as an exception under the blockade. This means that the economic blockade will remain in place during the exchange process, which may be revoked or frozen if any party submits a report to that effect.

The paper adds: The supplies that Iraq will obtain as a result of the exchange will not be sufficient to eliminate all the effects of the blockade in all spheres of life. They will only result in a partial improvement of economic and health conditions. Because revenues will be limited and because they will be spent on various spheres and on various parties, the required normal situation will not be restored. The paper indicates that the limits of the dialogue's usefulness have been specified by the term given to describe it: it is a dialogue on exchanging "oil for humanitarian needs." This means the extremely important needs of food and medicine. Meeting all human needs will not be one of the objectives of the dialogue.

The paper adds: Regardless of any positive results this dialogue might yield, it will not be the final solution to the Iraqi people's plight as a result of the comprehensive blockade. Because of the extreme shortage of medicine, the lack of medical equipment, and the scarcity of food, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have perished under the blockade. The paper stresses that rectifying health, social, economic, and other conditions requires an end to the economic blockade; the resumption of Iraq's exports, including oil; and normal transactions. This is a right guaranteed by Resolution 687. Part C of the resolution sets the conditions for lifting the economic blockade. All these conditions revolve around the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Paragraph 22 of the aforementioned resolution clearly indicates that the implementation of the requirements of Part C of the resolution will automatically and unconditionally result in the lifting of the blockade.

The paper adds: Based on this legal fact, Iraq has cooperated with the Special Commission over the last few years to meet the condition for having the blockade lifted. The Iraqi weapons specified by the resolution have been destroyed and have became "history," according to the committee's various reports. The blockade would have been lifted, if it had not been for the U.S. political interpretations, which are supported by Britain. These interpretations have been accompanied by pressure and acts of extortion by Washington against other states, something that has hindered the lifting of the blockade.

Discussing the U.S. positions against the Iraqi people, the paper says the most important thing that the United States did to obstruct the lifting of the blockade was its condition that other UN Security Council resolutions and paragraphs be implemented before the blockade is lifted according to Resolution 687. Iraq and the United

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Nations were supposed to continue cooperating to implement those resolutions after the blockade was lifted. The United States demands full information about previous programs before the blockade can be lifted, even though Resolution 687 says nothing about information. According to the resolution, the only condition is the destruction of the Iraqi weapons specified in the resolution, not providing information.

The paper concludes that the United States' anti-Iraq policy is based on linking the economic blockade to the complete implementation of resolutions other than Resolution 687, which specifies the conditions for lifting the blockade. This policy is also based on demanding complete information before the blockade is lifted and depends on the rule of doubting Iraq's future intentions and current statements. These principles have been adopted by the United States to impede the lifting of the blockade.

Iraq: Newspaper Calls Antiterrorism Summit 'Farce'

NC1003104696 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, March 10 (AFP) — An Iraqi newspaper run by President Saddam Husayn's son 'Udayy on Sunday [10 March] dismissed an anti-terrorism summit to be held in Egypt as a "ridiculous farce" stage-managed by the United States.

"This ridiculous farce is organised by the United States, the most terrorist country in the world," the daily BABIL wrote.

It said the summit, to be held Wednesday in the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Shaykh, was a vote-winning ploy by U.S. President Bill Clinton in an election year.

"The United States carries out international terrorism of all types in front of the nose of the UN Security Council and often with its backing," the newspaper added.

It said Washington "interfered in the internal affairs of others, and propped up dictators and reactionary regimes beholden to the United States."

Clinton is to co-host the summit with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The leaders of Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan are to attend along with a host of other world leaders.

The unprecedented summit was called in an effort to salvage the Middle East peace process rocked by a wave of suicide bombings in Israel.

BABIL newspaper said "the leading powers, especially those who are going to attend the summit, should have distinguished between their own interests and those of the United States which is looking to increase its hegemony over the region and the world."

Iraq: Egyptian Magazine Cited on Israeli Military Program

JN1103125296 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Feb 96 pp 1,2

[Report by Ra'd al-Shati]

[FBIS Translated Text] A secret document revealed in Tel Aviv recently contains a program for developing Zionism's military capability until the year 2000. Military sources in the Zionist entity have affirmed that the Zionist military planning authority centered its program on the need to make Israel an effective nuclear power in the region with a long-range air force and missile capability.

The Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR says in its issue this week that one of the main political and strategic considerations of this program is the ability of Iraqi missiles to penetrate "secure" areas and hit targets inside Israel. In an article written by Staff Major General Husam Suwaylim, the magazine says the success of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance in directing effective strikes at Israel and inflicting heavy material and human losses on it were also among the considerations taken in formulating this program.

The magazine disclosed other details of the program by saying that it takes into consideration the military threat of the Arab states which do not have a common border with Israel. The magazine adds that Israel's experience with Iraqi missiles has made Zionist militarists base their calculations and future plans on Iraq's ability to restore its military arsenal after the removal of the embargo as well as the capability of Iran which, the magazine says, is about to possess the nuclear weapon.

The article cites in this regard the Arrow missile project, in which the United States has an 80 percent share and for which it has assigned $200 million. This is in addition to the "Edvik" [name as transliterated] spy satellite, of which Israel has so far launched three, the Jericho Missiles, and the development of the U.S. F-15 fighters.

Maj Gen Suwaylim said in his analysis of this program that Israeli peace means entrenching its occupation of Arab territories and establishing its domination over the Middle East region. The writer added that the change in priorities regarding the use of the tools of conflict is temporary. Giving priority to the cultural and economic tools over the military tools is only temporary in order to dominate Arab minds and resources, he concluded.

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Iraq: AL-THAWRAH Rebuffs 'Unfounded Charges' Against Regime

JN1003113596 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0724 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA) — An Iraqi paper says that the unfounded, anti-Iraq charges fabricated by the United States every time the UN Security Council holds discussions on lifting the blockade are an obvious attempt to distort Iraq's position and the fulfillment of its obligations under Resolution 687.

AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today that after five years of the unfair blockade and dealing with the UN Security Council and its resolutions, Iraq has become aware of everything. Iraq cannot expose its fulfillment of its obligations toward Resolution 687 and its cooperation with the UN Security Council to any deliberate misunderstanding, despite all the tendentious campaigns that target Iraq's firm and positive stand on cooperation with the United Nations.

The paper says that a similar clamor is raised every time debates between Iraq and the UN Security Council on the blockade approach. There is nothing new or striking about this, but it remains an obvious attempt to distort Iraq's position and the fulfillment of its obligations under Resolution 687.

The paper adds that it is unreasonable for some biased sides to announce they have "seized military materials bound for Iraq" every time Iraq imports civilian material. Iraq is an advanced state. In order to maintain and improve public services, the country needs to import large quantities of materials that are necessary for basic life and that the country has been deprived of due to the blockade.

AL-THAWRAH calls on responsible international quarters to keep away from the "sleazy" attempts and misguided games that are discovered before they spread. The paper also calls on these quarters to avoid anything that might put them in a shameful position, like Madeleine Albright's position when she talks about new Iraqi violations amid the ridicule and disapproval of her audience and world public opinion.

Iraq: Former Intelligence Chief—Saddam's End 'Only a Matter of Time'

MM1103125896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Mar 96 p 6

[Unattributed interview with Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former Chief of Iraqi Military Intelligence, "conducted prior to Husayn Kamil's return to Iraq"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What do you think about the Jordanian call for a meeting of Iraqi opposition, and why was the call rejected?

[Al-Samarra'i] In fact I have received no invitation to attend that conference, although I have read about it in the press. I believe that the lack of response was due to the call for federalism. It was this call that impeded the meeting. There were also some other personal and regional factors that led to the non-acceptance of the conference call.

I personally do not support the idea of holding large-scale conferences because they only lead to large-scale conflicts. It would actually be more useful to hold some smaller conferences.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Given the continued existence of the present Iraqi regime and Saddam's continued leadership of Iraq, how do you view the scope for a solution?

[Al-Samarra'i] Most people have detached themselves from Saddam Husayn, including even the Ba'thists on whom he used to depend and the security machines. Here am I, his chief of intelligence, now in Damascus siding with the opposition. There are many members of the Special Guard and the Republican Guard and Army officers here with us too, also coordinating with the opposition. For this reason I say that the regime is on its way out, that it is only a matter of time and a question of waiting for suitable conditions in which to act.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Reports leaking out about opposition meetings talk of preparations for the creation of a military field command to supervise military operations. How true are these reports?

[Al-Samarra'i] If the philosophy of future action is based on movement from outside, including movement from northern Iraq as well as from the inside the country, then the creation of a military command becomes very necessary and a military command will indeed be formed. But if the philosophy is based on staging a military coup inside Iraq for which the planning is done abroad, then there will be no need to establish a military command. I personally support the idea of having military and popular action from the inside the country as well as from the outside. For this reason it is necessary to establish a military field command. However, all this depends on the existence of a strategic ally to help us form such a military command.

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Last March we did set up an Iraqi military command to manage the conflict with Saddam Husayn. But we did not have a strategic ally to help us with funds, equipment, and weapons. Yet we were determined to continue our action, and we would have done so had it not been for some problems caused by differences among our Kurdish brothers.

Thus the military command is essential. But we still lack the strategic ally, which could be an Arab state or even the United States itself. If the United States wishes to help us, then I can say that we are ready for action to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime. If an Arab state wished to play the role of such an ally, we would welcome it too.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you think it likely that the United States will help in overthrowing Saddam Husayn, at a time when it is depicting him as a legendary hero who can defy it in respect of its own movements and decisions?

[Al-Samarra'i] I am not inclined to accept such a proposition. I believe that the United States wants to topple Saddam and will work to topple him. If Saddam was ever an American agent, his role has now ended and it is essential to find a substitute for him.

Saddam Husayn imagined that he could occupy Kuwait and so he tried to do so, and he was severely punished. At that time I was still in the intelligence department, and I had submitted numerous important reports to Saddam in which I warned him that our forces would be destroyed and our country demolished. But he rejected all these reports, and he also rejected Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's letter to him pledging that the Syrian forces would fight on his side if he should withdraw from Kuwait and be exposed to any attack following his withdrawal.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you envisage the Syrian role in Iraq?

[Al-Samarra'i] Syria will never abandon its role in Iraq. Besides, it is not in Syria's interest to abandon that role. This is because the loss of Iraq would constitute a very great loss for Syria. Likewise Iraq's alienation of Syria would constitute a still greater loss. Had Iraq been on good terms with Syria all these years, the political, military, security, and economic formulas would have been totally different. It is not in our interest, as Iraqi people, to see Syria abandon its role. I do not believe that Syria has been at all prepared to abandon its role, because it has always supported the Iraqi people and continues to do so, its only concern being to alleviate the Iraqi people's sufferings. It is no secret that Syria has a presence inside Iraq and that it will exploit that presence to act at the right time. We feel happy to see Syria intervene on a wider and bigger scale in the process of the toppling of Saddam Husayn, because Saddam's continued existence constitutes a major threat to Syria.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Then how can there be any question of Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement under such conditions?

[Al-Samarra'i] I do not think that that is the right way to look at it. It used to be said that Syria was disseminating such reports to use as a pressure card in the peace negotiations [with Israel]. But I have never believed that to be true, because Syria did not need such a card given that it was acting from a sound position in its peace negotiations. As to the reported meeting of the Syrian and Iraqi foreign ministers on the margin of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, that means nothing at all. The same applies to last year's visit by the Iraqi information minister to Damascus within the framework of the Arab information ministers' conference. So we do not believe in the reports about a rapprochement between Syria and Iraq.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view the differences among the Kurds and the current situation in northern Iraq?

[Al-Samarra'i] According to the information I have about the situation, I believe that it would be difficult, indeed impossible for the two sides to resolve their problems and cooperate properly with each other; or even establish any sort of harmony or unity among themselves, which would equally be very difficult. The important thing, however, is to prevent them from fighting each other, so that all sides address themselves to the nobler task of toppling Saddam Husayn.

I am not one of those who say that conditions in northern Iraq and Kurdistan must be normalized first before any action is taken to overthrow the Iraqi regime. So what if the conflicts persist! Kurdistan constitutes part of Iraq, and the Iraqi opposition has every right to operate from there. If one or two sides refuse to fight the regime, that is up to them, because naturally every party has its own views with regard to action against Saddam. I do not believe that the parties of Barzani and Talabani will really ever succeed in establishing a genuine and sincere accord because the differences between them are deep. What we do hope for, though, is for the fighting between them to stop completely and the two sides to resort to democratic means to calm the situation until after the radical change has taken place in Iraq.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Let us go back to the question of the Jordanian move. Does it constitute an attempt to lure the Iraqi opposition away from Syria

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and into Jordan so that it can later contain and destroy it?

[Al-Samarra'i] Jordan had been working secretly to topple Saddam Husayn's regime since at least 1991. Its operation remained active until the arrival of Husayn Kamil in Jordan. Husayn Kamil's departure from Iraq provided the Jordanian action with the opportunity to come into the open.

As to the opposition's presence in Syria, it is due more to humanitarian and nationalist factors than to any advantages that it might derive from that presence. Syria itself does not benefit from the opposition presence there, particularly as it has to spend a great deal of money on the opposition members in one way or another, whether by granting salaries to the Iraqi refugees or by facilitating their numerous movements. All this places a heavy burden on Syria. I believe, however, that it would be impossible for Syria to abandon the opposition unless it decided to abandon its role vis-a-vis theIraqi issue — which I do not expect it to do.

As for Jordan's relations with Iraq, there is a clear and sharp deterioration in the political relations between Jordan and Iraq. We are happy to see such conflict and such contradictory stands continue between the two countries, since they serve our cause, the Iraqi people's cause, and the opposition cause.

Iraq: Saddam Chairs 12th Cabinet Session

JN1103145396 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1135 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn said: Managing capital to produce and sell goods and services through the socialist sector, and doing the same thing through the private sector, are two different patterns. For this reason, they will always remain a subject of debate.

His excellency observed that when this subject is debated, no serious thought is usually given to how to develop capital management under state supervision. Some people even begin to contrast the methods by which both the private sector and the state manage capital.

His excellency said: This is not the method we outlined in accordance with social, political, and constitutional principles. The pattern of easy solutions had existed before the foundation of the Ba'th Party. There were two ways followed by capitalism and communism. Both were the result of the experience of Western countries. Communism was a violent reaction to the nature and results of the capitalist approach in the West. As for the Ba'th Party, it chose socialism as a way of life. The most important aspect of the Ba'th thinking is its deep awareness that the post-Islam Arab civilization was mainly based on justice and socialism, and not on capitalist tenets.

His excellency made the remarks during the 12th session of the Council of Ministers, which he chaired. He added: Arab way of life was based on collective responsibility and independent judgment. Then, independent judgment had been abandoned for 800 years. However, we inherited a great legacy that ensured advanced birth of a viable phase. We were born with the spirit of that phase, but with an 800-year absence of independent judgment. Therefore, we want to practice independent judgment. We want to seek inspiration from what we inherited, to adapt to the time in which we live, and to think of ways to develop our socialist system.

While debating a report on the industrial sector and ways to modernize its management and explore its future prospects, President Saddam Husayn said: It is universally clear that any country that has no advanced industry and is not capable of balancing its imports and exports can never have any weight internationally.

The president added: A careful study of industrial development will show the existing interaction between consumption industry and large industry that produces the means of production. No progress can be made in consumption industries without a vital and modern large industry to provide the necessary equipment to perpetuate and renew consumption industry.

His excellency said that several years ago he urged the ministries and high-level government departments to be planners, leaders, and supervisors; to acquaint themselves with and solve the problems of the concerned parties in a proper way; to distribute powers to the specialized departments; and to coordinate among the concerned parties rather than turning these ministries and departments into heavy burdens. This, he said, will ensure active and fruitful performance that is needed for a successful administration. Communications channels between government departments, he added, are designed for coordination and cooperation rather than to issue orders, whose sources are well known.

Regarding the relationship between the public and private sectors, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn stressed the instructions he issued several years ago, and said that the public sector should meet the requirements of the private sector, whenever possible. The Council of Ministers then discussed topics on its agenda and made the necessary recommendations.

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Iraq: Central Bank Governor Notes 'Strength' of Iraqi Dinar

JN0903214996 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in English 1700 GMT 9 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq, Dr. 'Isam Rashid Huwaysh, has affirmed that Iraqi dinar has great potentials unlike many international currencies because it draws its strength from the vast national resources, including huge oil reserves.

Speaking to the IRAQ NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Dr. Huwaysh said the successful management of the country's economy during the past few years will help in giving further strength to the national currency.

Iraq: Article on Iraqis' Pilgrimage to Mecca

96LH0078A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 17 Jan 96 p 13

[Article by Salah al-'Amiri: "To Ensure Iraqis' Pilgrimage to Ka'bah, Iraq Demands Release of Part of Its Frozen Assets"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regional and international organizations derive their legitimacy from the degree of their ability to accomplish the objectives entrusted to them and to serve the goals of their affiliates, separately or collectively. When they fail to accomplish this, they lose every legitimate justification for their existence, as well as their effectiveness. Because Iraq is an Arab Muslim country and a founding member of the United Nations and because it is being subjected to a grave and ongoing injustice that has violated even the simplest human rights, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has addressed three messages to the UN secretary general, the Arab League secretary general, and the Islamic Conference Organization [OIC] secretary general demanding the release of $50 million of Iraq's frozen assets to cover the expenses of pilgrimage rites and of printing copies of the venerable Koran.

Islamic fraternity duties dictate that every Muslim support Iraq's just demand to the Boycott Committee to release $50 million of its frozen assets so Iraq can attain a noble human objective and a sacred religious duty.

Dr. Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, the Minister of Waqf and Religious Affairs, has noted that failure to respond to Iraq's request will be tantamount to violating the Islamic shari'ah dictates, obstructing one of Islam's five duties, and contributing to the U.S.-Zionist scheme which seeks to make the blockade encompass all aspects of life, led by the religious aspect. The unjust and continued blockade against our country and its impact on the economic conditions has created a foreign exchange shortage that has reflected in turn on the exercise of religious rites, including the pilgrimage duty which requires foreign exchange.

Because of the importance of the pilgrimage duty and so as not to deny the Iraqi people the performance of this duty because of the continued unjust blockade, Iraq has demanded the release of $50 million of its frozen assets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the State of Bahrain. His excellency the waqf minister has also pointed out that the ministry has addressed messages to a number of Arab and Islamic waqf ministers and to a number of Islamic notables, associations, and parties asking them to urge their governments to intervene in order to accomplish this Islamic goal, with its noble human dimensions.

In a related development, the Popular Islamic Conference Organization [PICO] General Secretariat has appealed to the United Nations, the Arab League, the ICO, and leaders of the world's Islamic associations and organizations to exert efforts for the release of $50 million in Iraqi assets frozen in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain to finance the costs of performance of the pilgrimage duty by Iraqi citizens and of printing the venerable Koran.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sa'di, PICO secretary general, has said: "To deny Iraqis the opportunity to perform this basic duty of our orthodox faith is tantamount to an injustice and to blocking the path to the Ka'bah. God says, "And who is more unjust than he who forbids that in places of worship of God, God's name should be celebrated" [Koran 2:114]. God also says in His perfect book, "And complete the Hajj or 'umra" [Koran 2:196]. God is truthful. Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq holds those who impede the release of the assets, which have been unjustly and aggressively withheld from Iraq, responsible before God at the shari'ah level and at the human and fraternal level. He has urged sincere, well-meaning, and pious people to exert serious and rapid efforts with all their might to release these assets so Iraqi Muslims will not be denied the opportunity to perform the pilgrimage [hajj] this year as they were denied it last year and so Iraq will print God's book (the venerable Koran) and distribute it to the largest number possible of Iraqi students. The Koran will be distributed within the major religious campaign ordered by His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him and watch over him so that he may carefully and completely supervise every juncture of the implementation of this campaign.

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Thus, Iraq has put the United Nations, the Arab League, the ICO, and all Islamic parties, organizations, and figures, rather all Muslims in all parts of the world, before their human, religious, and fraternal responsibility to work seriously and with perseverance for the release of $50 million so a noble Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian goal will be accomplished. This is the goal of enabling Iraqi Muslims to make the pilgrimage to the Ka'bah and holy places, which is the fifth mainstay of Islam, and to print God's glorious book, the venerable Koran, for the sake of sacred human, religious, and pan-Arab objectives.

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Israel: Peres on Antiterror Measures, Summit Significance

TA1103170796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel now has a full picture of the recent suicide bombings in the country and of ways to deal with terrorism. The prime minister was speaking at a meeting of the Labor caucus in the Knesset. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres accused Iran of applying what he referred to as actual physical pressure on Hizballah in Lebanon and Islamic Jihad from the Gaza Strip to step up their attacks against Israel. Speaking to the Labor caucus, the prime minister defended the renewed Israeli policy of sealing off and demolishing homes of the families of suicide attackers. We have no choice, he said, but to tell the father that if from your home your son goes to commit suicide, do not think only that he is going to paradise — your house is in danger; it will be harmed. Peres said nine homes were marked off and were either sealed off or in one case a home was demolished, and we will demolish all of them without mercy, the prime minister told the Labor MK's [Knesset members]. He described the steps taken against the villages of the terrorists, where soldiers carried out house-to-house searches and living conditions suffered somewhat, as Peres put it. But here, too, he defended Israel's actions. I am opposed to collective punishment, but if there is a collective terrorist effort, there is no other way but to break down that resolve.

The prime minister said the importance of the Sharm al-Shaykh conference is to achieve both tangible and symbolic results:

[Peres] There are some very tangible problems, like for example the funding of the terroristic organizations that comes from abroad. It should be dried out and not to supply with money these terrible acts of terror. There are arms and equipment which is coming from abroad. There are some countries who offer shelter or haven to the terrorists; that should be stopped. And there is information flowing all over the places that should be analyzed and aimed to the proper operational targets. But more than that, this is a very powerful declaration on the part of the civilized world, including an unprecedented participation of the Middle East and the Arab world, to deliver a message that they will not permit terror to kill peace; that terror can kill a person — it cannot kill an idea; it will never kill an idea. We went through a difficult period of time, but we feel that what we were doing was right and what we are hoping for is attainable, and we shall achieve it. I think the initiative that was taken by President Clinton shows that he is not only a leader of the free world, but is leading freedom in the whole of the world.

[Ze'ev] Peres lashed out at those who he said are making the fight against terrorism a political matter. The police does not belong to any party, he said. The army does not belong to any party, and the General Security Service does not serve any particular party. Instead, he said, all three are of the highest international standard. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 11 March includes a related report by political correspondent Udi Segal, adding: "Peres said that one of the possibilities that has still not been verified is that Hizballah is responsible for the attack in Argentina. Peres told the Labor caucus that the Shin Bet investigation indicates that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] planned to have the suicide terrorists come from villages under Israeli security's control so that Israel would not be able to point an accusing finger at the Palestinian Authority [PA]. At the same time, Hamas negotiated with 'Arafat and simply lied to him."

[In a recorded passage, Peres says: "Their modus operandi was to find students or other people in Judaea and Samaria, ask them to recruit people from villages located in Area B, and send these people — a single person or two individuals — out wearing IDF [Israel Defense Forces] uniforms to carry out attacks in Israel."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 11 March in a report by Knesset correspondent Hayim Hecht adds that Prime Minister Peres told the meeting that "some of the terrorists captured by the PA have begun to talk, and they contradict the PA's claims. For instance, they say that terrorism's operational center is located in the Gaza Strip and not in Jordan or Sudan as the PA contends; that the explosives did not originate in Judaea and Samaria — that is, IDF warehouses — but from mines found in the Gaza Strip and Sinai; that the claim about cooperation between Islamic extremists and Israeli right-wing extremists is rubbish."]

Israel: Or on Sharm al-Shaykh Summit, Iran, Strategy Against Hamas

BR1103135896 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 9 Mar 96 p 15

[Interview with Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr by Umberto De Giovannangeli in Jerusalem; date not given: "Deputy Minister Orr: 'The 15 Are Playing

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With Nuclear Fire'" — first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Of course, Gaza remains the front-line trench in the fight against the terrorists of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], but Islamic fundamentalism can never be defeated completely unless action is taken with the utmost determination and unity of intent against the countries that actively support it. I refer primarily to Iran, the dangerousness of which Europe is culpably underrating, and to Syria as well. The government in Tehran organizes, finances, and arms the 'internationale' of Islamic terror and, what is more, it has the atomic bomb. That alone gives sufficient grounds for asserting that Iran is now more dangerous than Hitler's Germany," General Ori Orr, Israel's key figure in the total war against Hamas, maintains. Although Shim'on Peres is formally in charge of the Defense Ministry, in actual fact it is Ori Orr, the deputy minister, who runs the enormous war machine that has been set up to wipe out the Islamic kamikaze killers. We interviewed Gen. Orr a few days before the summit on terrorism in Egypt.

[De Giovannangeli] The much-awaited international summit on terrorism will be held in Egypt next Wednesday [13 March]. There has been much talk over the last few days of Iranian complicity with the Palestinian fundamentalist groups that have been responsible for the massacres in Israel. Do you have evidence of this? And do you think that Syria is helping them as well?

[Orr] Of course there are links with Syria. Hamas has its headquarters in Damascus, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has not even condemned the massacres. As to Iran, there is a lot of evidence of its involvement. We know how and to what extent Tehran is financing the Hizballah in Lebanon, and there is irrefutable proof of Iran funding Hamas. The evidence exists, but the same cannot be said of the political will to act accordingly.

[De Giovannangeli] At whom, in particular, is this serious allegation directed?

[Orr] At Europe, which first calls for peace and then does nothing to put an end to the sale of arms to Iran by private industry and agencies, French and German in particular, who often even use public channels to ply their dirty trade. Europe is playing with nuclear fire by, in practice, backing a regime that currently represents a deadly threat to peace, and not only in the Middle East. This must not go on.

[De Giovannangeli] Yasir 'Arafat has adopted tough measures against Hamas since the latest massacre in Tel Aviv. Are you satisfied?

[Orr] This is not the time for assessing the measures; they have only just been initiated. We have to wait a week or two and see if they continue along the same road. What I can say is that Israel is giving 'Arafat his last chance to dismantle the fundamentalist groups, arrest the militants, and disarm them. One thing is sure: If he does not do it, we will. Allow me to add that we are not asking 'Arafat to defend Israel, but to take action against the Islamic terrorists in Gaza as President Mubarak is doing in Egypt and King Husayn in Jordan.

[De Giovannangeli] Do you plan military intervention in the territories administered by the Palestinian National Authority as well?

[Orr] Definitely, if we deem it necessary. And intervention of this type could have extreme consequences. 'Arafat is fully aware of that. It is up to him to avoid it.

[De Giovannangeli] There are those who suggest that a government of national unity with the Likud might be formed to address the terrorist emergency.

[Orr] No, I really fail to see the need for that. Fighting terrorism takes a good army and good secret services, and we have them.

Israel: Baraq To Hold Talks in Amman on Antiterrorism Conference

TA1103183296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our political affairs correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi reports that Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq will leave for Amman tomorrow on a short visit during which he will hold consultations with Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in preparation for the antiterrorism conference in Sharm al-Shaykh.

Israel: Draft Resolutions for Antiterror Summit Detailed

TA1103195796 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Discussion between anchor Hayim Yavin in the studio and political correspondent Nisim Mish'al at the Prime Minister's Office — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Nisim, is the inner cabinet now meeting?

[Mish'al] The inner cabinet meeting ended about an hour ago, and everybody is rushing to the dinner with the Turkish president. The little that we are permitted to divulge is that the ministers were given reports on the situation in south Lebanon. Resolutions were made,

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but they will all be held up because of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit conference and President Clinton's visit to Israel on 14 March. The Israeli Government's hands are tied due to the conference and the president's visit here. The ministers dispersed about half an hour ago.

[Yavin] I understand that Christopher will be staying here after the conference.

[Mish'al] Secretary Christopher, his aides, and CIA officials will remain here for two main purposes: First, to work on bolstering cooperation between Israel and the United States in the war against terrorism. Israel will receive advanced technological means. Second, at least as important if not more important, is studying the possibility of resuming the negotiations with the Palestinians. The CIA officials reported to the White House yesterday and today that they have the impression that 'Arafat is making greater efforts in his war against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and they suggest following up that development. Today, the secretary of state made a major endeavor to persuade Syrian President al-Asad to attend the summit conference, but to no avail, as far as we know.

[Yavin] Nisim, I understand that you have a copy of the conference's draft resolutions. Can you give us details?

[Mish'al] It is a draft, and I assume that there will be amendments. Resolution one: The participating states in the conference express their support for the peace process in the Middle East and their resolve that this process will advance security and stability and bring about a just, comprehensive, and inviolable peace. Resolution two: The conference is concerned about the continuation of terrorist acts in the region and denounces all types of terrorism independent of motivation or its perpetrators. The wording is very interesting in that resolution because it says that no matter how justified you are, you must not carry out terrorist actions. Resolution three: The conference strengthens its commitment to stand firm against terrorist phenomena and to bring about the cessation of such acts. Resolution four: The conference announces that it has decided to bolster cooperation and coordination among governments, intelligence services, and regimes in order to fight the acts of terror. That is perhaps the most significant and practical point. Resolution five: The conference will try to reach an international agreement to adopt measures to bring to justice perpetrators and planners of terrorist actions. I would say that in effect there are two very interesting points: first, cooperation among governments, intelligence services, and regimes of all the states in the war against terrorism. That is the most practical clause in the draft resolution. The other is bringing to justice all those who perpetrate and plan terrorist actions.

Israel: Likud Says Antiterrorism Summit Aimed at Rescuing Peres

TA1103200196 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Nitzan Hen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud calls the Sharm al-Shaykh summit a show aimed only at adding prestige to the Peres government. The Likud claims that the conference will not contribute anything to uprooting terrorism and will not even save a single Jewish life. Nitzan Hen reports:

[Begin recording] [Hen] A cover-up conference, a conference to rescue Peres, a ridiculous show — these are only some of the terms used by the Likud for the Sharm al-Shaykh conference.

[Knesset Member, MK, Moshe Qatzav] The conference has a hidden design to help Shim'on Peres in the elections.

[Zalman Shoval, candidate in the Likud primaries] The conference is not planned properly. It was arranged in the wake of the most recent events and for political purposes: To strengthen the Israeli Government and perhaps to bolster 'Arafat, and to give President Clinton television time in his competition with Bob Dole. It is a show; it is no tragedy. It will not be of much use, although it will not do any harm.

[Hen] Only Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu continued to avoid clashing head-on with Peres and his ideas. Netanyahu's aides admit that had he been prime minister, the terrorist conference could easily have been his idea, and the cynics added that the pictures from Sharm al-Shaykh will not wipe out last week's scenes from Dizengoff Street and Jerusalem.

[MK Ari'el Sharon] I regret to say that this conference will not save even a single soul in Israel.

[Hen] Will an antiterrorism conference save at least one Israeli soul, or rescue several Knesset seats for Labor?

[Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir] That is a good question. It will do neither. [end recording]

Israel: Netanyahu on Summit, Clinton Visit, David Levi

TA1203091096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Arye Golan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Golan] Good morning, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.

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[Netanyahu] Good morning, Arye.

[Golan] Are we going to witness a historic handshake today?

[Netanyahu] If you referring to a handshake between me and David Levi, there is definitely going to be one. As I said, I will do everything necessary to put Israel back on the track of peace and security, and the union with Gesher is one of the steps that can be instrumental.

[Golan] Regarding the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, do you really think the U.S. President and over 30 world leaders are coming to the region solely to help Shim'on Peres get reelected?

[Netanyahu] No. I do not know why you are saying that.

[Golan] Because that is what Likud people have been saying for a few days now, ever since the news of the summit was announced.

[Netanyahu] First of all, people can say all kinds of things. Since you are asking me, I will tell you: I think the convening of the international antiterror conference can be definitely an important opportunity to form an international consensus on the war against the wave of terror that has been besetting us in recent years. It is true that terror does not distinguish between political parties, and it jeopardizes all peace arrangements. Vanquishing terror is therefore a vital condition for achieving peace, which we desire. The question is how it will be approached. I have no doubt that a lot can be done on the international level: The raising of funds for terrorist organizations can be prevented, action can be taken against Western proterror groups.

[Golan] Can the summit be instrumental in this?

[Netanyahu] It definitely can. The other international steps would be tighter immigration laws and cooperation between police intelligence bodies. All these things, that I have been calling for for many years, can materialize if appropriate resolutions are endorsed. The immediate problem which prompted the convening of the summit are a few hundred — 200, more or less — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men operating in semi-independent enclaves, mainly in Gaza. The question is how this problem should be dealt with. If the conference truly wants to score an achievement with respect to the terror threatening us, in addition to addressing other aspects such as Iran and hopefully Syria, it should first of all address those who are sponsoring terror. It should back those who are forced to wage direct action against terrorists.

[Golan] Regarding President Clinton's visit to Israel....

[Netanyahu, interrupting] Permit me to explain my point, Arye. To achieve its objective, the summit must completely endorse a resolution denying any immunity whatsoever to terrorist organizations inside the territory that was handed over to the Palestinian Authority. It should also extend unreserved international support for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] operations and freedom of action anywhere. This is the first objective. If the summit does that, and I hope it will, it will be a most effective step.

The second point is that, instead of hugging 'Arafat — which is what the international conference is doing — it should act against those who cover up for terror, which is what 'Arafat has been doing. International pressure on him, preventing him from receiving all those funds lavished on him — this is the approach the conference should take. I am under the impression that it is going in a different direction, because it has invited 'Arafat and is giving him the podium.

[Golan] Nowadays 'Arafat is a peace partner.

[Netanyahu] Regrettably, 'Arafat is nowadays the cause of terror. One of the reasons is that, had he not covered up for and indirectly supported terrorists....[changes thought] My primary conviction, which I have been promoting for many years, is that two rules guide a war on terror. The first is a direct war against the terrorists themselves, and the second is indirect pressure on those who cover up for terrorists. If the conference achieves that, I will welcome it. We will wait and see.

[Golan] Clinton is coming to Israel. Do you view his participation in a cabinet meeting or him inviting Shim'on Peres to fly with him to the conference as intervention in Israel's domestic affairs?

[Netanyahu] No, I do not think in those terms at all. I will meet with President Clinton on 14 March, at his request. I think two things should be made clear in this respect. The first is that any Israeli Government that will be established will cooperate with the United States — we have been allies for a long time — and the United States will cooperate with us.

[Golan] Will the cooperation apply to the peace process?

[Netanyahu] Naturally. We want to achieve peace, a process we launched with U.S. assistance at Camp David which continued, also with U.S. assistance, at the Madrid conference. Any government headed by us will continue the peace process — with U.S. assistance, I hope.

[Golan] Today it includes Oslo, of course. I hope you are not forgetting.

[Netanyahu] It includes a peace process from which they have regrettably deviated and which I will have

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to reroute to its rightful track. What I mean is that it will be a process that does not permit the existence of terror, which jeopardizes peace. This is how we plan to act.

[Golan] A question about the handshake and the agreement that will be signed with Gesher today, with your permission. According to the agreement, David Levi will be No. 2, and he will stand in for you during your trips abroad, if you establish the next government. Do you believe that, after all that happened between you and David Levi, you two will be able to work in harmony?

[Netanyahu] Yes, I am convinced we will, because the cause ahead of us is greater than any of us and greater than anyone who will participate in our joint endeavor. What matters now is to rescue the State of Israel from its predicament and to lift it up to the path of genuine peace. I believe this partnership will dictate and enable much better cooperation than other governments ever had.

[Golan] What articles of Gesher's social program has the Likud adopted? All we hear are accounts of the candidates' electoral demands.

[Netanyahu] I understand the media would like to delve into little details, but what is more interesting and important for me is the political and defense plan for peace, as well as the socioeconomic plan aiming to generate growth, prosperity, and equality for all Israelis. All these things will be included in our joint platform. [passage omitted]

Israel: Jerusalem Mayor's 'Sharp' Protest Over Clinton Visit Agenda

TA1203114396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Municipality of Jerusalem will not cooperate with the preparations for President Clinton's visit to the capital to protest the fact that it was not consulted on preserving the normal routine of local residents during his visit.

Our correspondent Esti Perez reports that Mayor Ehud Olmert has submitted a sharp protest to the prime minister because President Clinton is not scheduled to participate in any activity connected with the terror events in Jerusalem, and because of the decision to stage a mass gathering of students with Clinton in Tel Aviv.

Israel: U.S. Said To Seek 'Permanent Frameworks' To Combat Terror

TA1103173496 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 11 Mar 96 p 3

[Report by Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States seeks to exploit the international counterterrorism summit scheduled to convene in Sharm al-Shaykh on 13 March in order to establish permanent frameworks for the exchange of information and to coordinate the efforts of countries in the region to combat fundamentalist terrorism. Israel supports this trend, and Washington and Jerusalem have examined several ways to implement this idea in contacts held over the past few days.

Political sources in Israel who maintain contacts with senior U.S. officials expressed the assessment that the U.S. Administration plans to institutionalize cooperation in the field of intelligence and other spheres against terrorist organizations on three different levels.

— The most restricted is the bilateral Israeli-Palestinian level. The Americans intend to get Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to order the heads of his security organs to cooperate with the Israeli security mechanisms in an ongoing process and within fixed frameworks.

The United States has already begun to act to set up that Israeli-Palestinian network through meetings held here in recent days by CIA Deputy Director George Tenet. Tenet and his aides met Saturday [9 March] night with 'Arafat and discussed with him the supply of counterterrorism equipment to the PA and the institutionalization of intelligence cooperation between Israel, the PA, and the United States.

— The second level on which the United States wants to institutionalize cooperation is the regional level. President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher will hold behind-the-scenes meetings at the Sharm al-Shaykh conference aimed at establishing a permanent forum to exchange information and to plan antiterrorist activity in which Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the PA will participate.

If this plan is implemented and the forum operates in a satisfactory way, it will be possible to add to it North African states like Morocco and Tunisia, and perhaps several Gulf states in the future .

The third and most problematic is the global level. The United States and Israel aspire to creating an international antiterrorist coalition to fortify the international isolation of Iran, which Washington and Jerusalem regard as the main source of fundamentalist terrorism.

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One of the main difficulties in forming such a coalition is the position of European states which aspire to "a critical dialogue" with Tehran: maintaining trade ties while trying to change Iran's political positions.

Washington and Jerusalem expressed satisfaction with the fact that President Chirac and Chancellor Kohl, the leaders of the two main countries that aspire to a critical dialogue with Iran, decided to attend the conference.

The assessment in Jerusalem, based on contacts with the American organizers of the conference, is that President Clinton wants Prime Minister Peres to play a central role in the conference. On Wednesday morning, a trilateral meeting will take place in Sharm al-Shaykh between Clinton, Peres, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The fact that Clinton will go from Sharm al-Shaykh to Israel is also seen as an American demonstration of support.

During Clinton's visit to Israel there will be other gestures: the President's participation in a political/security cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, a visit to the grave sites of soldiers killed in terrorist bus bombings, and his participation in a rally by Israeli youths.

In his talks in Jerusalem, Clinton will also discuss the future of the negotiations with Syria. The assessment in Jerusalem over the past 24 hours is that the United States will take a severe view of a Syrian refusal to participate in the Sharm al-Shaykh conference. Christopher yesterday applied pressure on Damascus in order to convince President Hafiz al-Asad to come to the conference or to send a representative on his behalf.

Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq said yesterday: "If Syria does not attend, it will show that the conditions have not ripened for Damascus to sever its ties with terrorism."

Israel: Peres Wants Defense Pact With U.S. Before Elections

TA1203100096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Mar 96 pp A1, A2

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has decided to act to establish a formal defense pact with the United States before the elections. According to the plan, the agreement will be signed during Peres' visit to the United States in late April and will then be immediately passed to Congress for their approval.

Senior political sources yesterday estimated that there is enough time left before the elections to allow Congress to approve the agreement. According to another assessment, however, there is no chance of finalizing the agreement in the brief amount of time left, and the most that can be done is a declaration without substantial content. The sources added that contacts with the U.S. Administration on this idea are only in the examination stage.

On 10 March Peres held consultations in his office in anticipation of President Bill Clinton's visit to Israel this week. In the discussions Peres made it clear he wants to establish a defense pact with the United States. He directed the Foreign and Defense Ministries to launch discussions with the U.S. Administration. Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq will direct the negotiations with the administration.

Such a defense pact will include a clear U.S. guarantee to maintain Israel's security and preserve the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] qualitative-technological edge. Similar commitments have been made to Israel in the past by American presidents, but so far they have not been included in a formal agreement between the two countries.

Peres raised the proposal of establishing a defense pact with the United States immediately after entering office as prime minister and defense minister. The professional level at the Defense and Foreign Ministries rejected the idea, however, because it feared that Israel's military freedom of action would be curtailed.

The defense establishment recommended that Peres not establish a formal defense pact, but settle for signing a new strategic memorandum of understanding which will deepen and broaden the present agreements with the United States in areas such as emergency supplies, research and development in weapons, and surface-to-surface missile defense.

In his last visit to the United States, Peres spoke with Clinton about the need to upgrade the strategic relations between the two countries. The U.S. Administration initially maintained this should be linked to an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement. Israeli sources believe, however, that the United States is now willing to drop the "linkage to the Syrian track," because the negotiations with Syria are frozen and the administration wants to help Israel following the recent wave of attacks and to strengthen Peres in anticipation of the elections.

The senior political sources said we should now "examine the U.S. demands on Israel in exchange for a defense pact." Israeli sources fear that Israel's nuclear ability will be harmed. They want to maintain the understanding which has been in force with the United States since 1969, under which the United States recognizes Israel's independent deterrent power on condition that

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Israel pursues its policy of "vagueness" in the nuclear sphere.

As a first step, this week the two countries will sign a framework agreement for cooperation in counterterrorism. Today contacts will continue to formulate the details of the agreement, which will include a joint forum on the exchange intelligence information, the supply of equipment, and technological development. [passage omitted]

Israel: Minister on Importance of More Defense Agreements With U.S.

TA1203100296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Minister Efrayim Sne by Arye Golan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Golan] Can you confirm the headline appearing today in HA'ARETZ that Peres wants to sign a defense pact with the United States before the elections.

[Sne] Look, our stand on the defense pact issue is on the record. We already have a variety of very good military and defense agreements with the United States of which very few countries can boast. This alliance can naturally be strengthened by several additional agreements, particularly in the sphere of counterterror. If that happens, it will be important. I do not think it has anything to do with the elections; it will be for the benefit and wellbeing of the state and its war on terror.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Minister Sne.

Israel: Savir Demands Syria Condemn Terrorism Before Talks Resume

TA1103120796 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 11 Mar 96 p 2

[Report by Dan Avidan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir said yesterday that Syria must issue an unambiguous condemnation of terrorism before Israel resumes negotiations with Damascus. Savir added that the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria would be discussed with President Clinton and his aides when they visit Israel. Dennis Ross will return to the region at a later stage for this purpose. Savir added that talks between Syria and Israel will resume only after relations between the Palestinians and Israel stabilize.

Savir estimated that despite the problematic state of relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA] following the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror attacks, the Oslo process was irreversible. In his opinion, the Israeli-Palestinian agreement constitutes the key to a comprehensive regional arrangement. The Foreign Ministry director general was speaking at a seminar on Syria at Hebrew University sponsored by the information center and the Truman Institute.

Savir said that the recent rounds of talks between Syria and Israel had led him to conclude that the Syrians were a serious partner to the negotiations. They are seriously interested in reaching peace with Israel but it remains unclear whether they can meet Israel's requirements for a lasting peace. According to Savir, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad cannot decide whether to adhere to his rigid, ideological position with regard to Israel or adopt pragmatic stands designed to promote Syria's interests. Savir believes that the pragmatic side of al-Asad's political thinking will eventually outweigh the dogmatism. The Syrians are currently seeking to make peace with Israel without paying the full price demanded by Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry director general said.

The most difficult issues in the negotiations with Syria are those forcing Syria to open up to Israel and the West. Al-Asad fears that such openness could undermine the stability of his regime and jeopardize the continued reign of the 'Alawite minority. That is why the Syrians are still wary of establishing full normalization with Israel. Damascus is demanding a minimum of bilateral relations, which will be defined by Syria's national interests. The Syrians are making normalization conditional on Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Savir said.

The question of security arrangements along the northern border is more complicated. The Syrians seek minimal security arrangements, claiming that massive precautions are not necessary in peacetime. They show exaggerated sensitivity to Israel's demand that Syria change its army's deployment in the framework of the security arrangements. Damascus regards this demand as interference in Syria's most sensitive domestic affairs. Savir noted that the Syrian generals fear reporting to Damascus that they even discussed this matter with their Israeli counterparts. Subsequently, there is a wide gap between the Syrian and Israeli perceptions of the security arrangements.

The most complicated question is that of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the future border lines. This subject has still not come up in the negotiations. It will be discussed by the most senior political echelons on both sides, Savir explained, only after we are convinced that it is impossible to attain an arrangement with Syria that meets our requirements.

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Israel: Senior Defense Source on PA Antiterror Action

TA1203092296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] detained 15 more suspects as part of its operation against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other hostile organizations. The 15 men were take in for interrogation. More than 250 persons suspected of membership in hostile organizations have been detained in the West Bank over the past 10 days. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] Yasir 'Arafat has yet to meet the Israeli demand to capture the heads of the Hamas military arm, a senior defense source says. Gaza is the source of terror and explosives, he adds, and 'Arafat must snap the neck of the snake leading the terrorist operations — namely, fugitive No. 1 Muhammad Dayf. Dayf is still in the Strip, but the Palestinian security services have been unable to find him so far. Security elements believe he is guided by 'Imad al-'Alami, the Hamas representative in Tehran.

The senior defense source further said that the Palestinian Authority [PA] should make a serious effort to take on the Islamic College in Gaza, which is the Hamas bastion in the territories. The Palestinian Police searched the place several days ago, but Israel also expects 'Arafat to dissolve the college board of trustees and managing council. The senior source added that Hamas is afraid of loosing its control over the education and charity institutions, through which it keeps in touch with the public. Therefore, 'Arafat should also act against this civilian infrastructure of Hamas. 'Arafat should launch action similar to the Passover Cleaning operation waged by the Civil Administration against the civilian infrastructure in Judaea and Samaria.

The Palestinian security forces have not yet captured Khan Yunus terrorist Hasan Salamah either. Salamah, who received military training in Sudan and Syria, is responsible for handling the most recent network of suicide terrorists and is terrorist Muhammad Dayf's agent. He is believed to be hiding in the Ramallah area.

Israeli security elements believe pressure should be applied on the PA to arrest the Hamas terrorists and prepare Palestinian public opinion for the peace era. The security elements say that the PA is transmitting vague, double messages to the Palestinian public through its television and radio, while it should communicate a clear message supporting peace.

Israel: Peres Opposed to 'Total Separation,' Plans To Ease Closure

TA1103100396 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Mar 96 pp A1, A2

[Report by Re'eli Sa'ar, Aluf Ben, and 'Amira Hass]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is considering the easing of the closure on the territories within two weeks. At the first stage, it appears that entry permits into Israel will be reissued to married Palestinians over the age of 35. Peres disclosed this intention yesterday at a meeting of cabinet ministers convened to discuss the issuance of additional permits for foreign workers. [passage omitted]

[A similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 11 March reports that "Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that he never supported the idea of total separation" between Palestinians and Israelis. In a brief recorded passage Peres says: "The closure is dictated by today's reality and we are implementing it. However, the closure entails a paradox. Its failure makes it necessary whereas its success will make it unnecessary."]

Israel: Anti-Hamas Campaign Said Stopped by 'Senior Levels'

TA1103065696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A few months ago, the Civil Administration stopped its two-year campaign against the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] civilian infrastructure in the West Bank. Army sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the campaign was halted by order of senior levels.

In response, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said that there have been constant operations against Hamas but their scope has declined in the wake of the redeployment in the West Bank.

Yoni Siegel, who was the Civil Administration governor in the Judaea and Samaria, said the Civil Administration warned about Hamas' stepped up activities and the danger entailed in students from Gaza studying at the teachers seminary in Ramallah. It is from this seminary that the terrorists who staged the suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Ashqelon set out.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 11 March adds: "Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or said that the campaign against Hamas was halted at the recommendation of officers in the field, primarily on the grounds of efficiency, and that there was no political decision on the issue. Reacting to Siegel's remarks, Or

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said that retired officers had better speak up during their service and less after their discharge from the IDF."]

Israel: Hizballah Said To Step Up Activities Encouraged by Syria

TA1103070596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or says that Hizballah has stepped up its activities in the security zone in south Lebanon over the past year with Syria's encouragement and Iran's support. However, this is not a new phase, he said. In the past, the terrorists also reached the border fence.

Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el, Deputy Minister Or said that yesterday's incident should not lead to the conclusion that there is cooperation between Lebanese citizens in the area and Hizballah. He stressed that all those familiar with the area know that it is possible to reach the border fence and operate there without the assistance of the local population.

Israel: IDF Conducts 'Large-Scale' Operation Against Hamas

TA1103101696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Overnight the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] conducted a large-scale operation against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Judaea and Samaria. The IDF operated in several villages in the Tulkarm, Nabulus, and Bethlehem areas. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 29 men suspected of engaging in hostile activities were arrested and homemade weapons and seditious material were seized.

Our correspondent adds that a bomb was detonated last night against an Israeli jeep in the IDF-Palestinian Police joint patrol near the al-Duhayshah refugee camp in the Bethlehem District. No damage or casualties were caused. The bomb was detonated in an area controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

Israel: Peres Bars Intelligence Officer From Testifying in Congress

TA1103060396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Congressional sources in Washington say that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has barred Brigadier General Ya'aqov 'Amidror from testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee meeting this week to discuss the wave of terror attacks in Israel. 'Amidror is a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] intelligence official.

The sources told Qol Yisra'el's Washington correspondent that Peres said that 'Amidror's presence in Israel was crucial at this time. The congressional sources added that the decision is damaging to Israel's position, as it gives the appearance that Israel has something to hide.

Brig. Gen. 'Amidror will send written testimony to the committee.

Israel: Threats on Ministers Resume; Shin Bet Tightens Security

TA1103101796 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Mar 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ben Kaspit]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet has stepped up its guard on several cabinet ministers after threats against them resumed. Some of those making threats identify themselves as "the friends of Yig'al 'Amir."

"We are talking about a wave of threats very reminiscent of the one before Rabin's assassination," a security source told MA'ARIV yesterday. The main targets are Yosi Sarid and Yosi Beilin.

Minister Mikha Harish raised the renewed right-wing incitement issue at the cabinet session and proposed holding a special debate on the subject and get a report from the Shin Bet about the situation. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres rejected the proposal, claiming this might be perceived as a political act.

Harish told MA'ARIV yesterday: "Recently I have been receiving numerous phone calls at home from people calling themselves 'the friends of Yig'al 'Amir.' They threaten me and my family, yelling curses and obscenities."

MA'ARIV has learned that Beilin and Sarid have also become the targets of the renewed wave of threats. Sarid confirmed this fact yesterday, but refused to comment on it, as did Beilin. Security around the two men has been tightened in recent days, and the Shin Bet has adopted special measures to protect them.

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Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir Denies Hamas' Presence, Military Plans

JN1103200696 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir asserted that the U.S. planes which will take part in military exercises in Jordan will not be used in any way in any operations against Iraq. The information minister said these planes and exercises will help train the Royal Air Force pilots on F16 planes which Jordan will obtain. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir's statements were made in a frank and open dialogue with journalists and media representatives during which a number of domestic and international issues were discussed, including Jordan's participation in the antiterrorism conference.

[Begin recording] [Al-Mu'asshir] Brothers, we will go [to Sharm al-Shaykh conference] to help ourselves. This should be very clear, we are going to help ourselves and all the forces that seek a just and comprehensive peace. I would like to remind you that this peace was accepted by the Jordanian Government and was endorsed by a great majority of the House of Representatives. This peace earned the support of the majority of the Jordanian people, not just the Jordanian Government. It is our duty to defend this peace in every way. If we do not do this, then what is the alternative? Do we want to return the Israeli army to the West Bank cities and Gaza? Do we want to kill the Palestinian state when we are starting to see its features? What is the alternative? Do we want to go to waste time in defining terrorism while the Israeli army reoccupies the West Bank and the opportunities of establishing the independent Palestinian state diminish? Is this what we want? The objective of the conference is to discuss means of salvaging the peace process following the recent terrorist operations.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is the future of Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement's offices in Jordan following the recent operations in the occupied territories?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Where is the office located? Would you give me the name of the street and house number. Brothers, we do not hold people accountable for their opinions as long as these opinions are within Jordanian law. Many Jordanian citizens support these operations. Is this not true? Shall I send them to prison? As long as the Jordanian citizen does not violate any Jordanian laws, we will not hold him accountable for his opinions. Jordanian law, and nothing else, is the sole arbitrator in such issues. We do not have any offices for the Hamas Movement in Jordan. There is no planning for military operations to be staged by Hamas from Jordan. We only have Jordanian citizens who express sympathy with the Hamas Movement. This is not a violation of Jordanian law. We will not carry out any measures contradicting Jordanian law in this respect.

[Unidentified correspondent] Yesterday, it was reported that 34 U.S. planes will be stationed in Jordan and will fly over southern Iraq. Yesterday, we heard that flying over southern Iraq is carried out upon a UN resolution. Did the United Nations really stipulate that the U.S. planes will fly over southern Iraq?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] These planes will in no way be used, neither directly nor indirectly, in any military operations to strike against Iraq. Why will these planes come to Jordan? They will come to Jordan upon a Jordanian request, because we are about to purchase U.S. F16 military planes. As you know, these planes are new to the Jordanian Air Force. As you may know, we do not have enough funds to train our pilots to fly these planes. The use of these planes came upon a Jordanian request, because it will help train Jordanian pilots on these planes. After the end of the two-month period, some U.S. military equipment will remain [in Jordan]. Yes, these planes will carry out sorties over southern Iraq. These sorties are in implementation of Security Council Resolution 949. This is not something new. These planes have been flying for four years, or even more, south of parallel 32. There is nothing new in this issue. There are no military operations. There are no plans to strike Iraq militarily in any way. Jordan's stand on this issue is clear: It will not use weapons against an Arab country; we say this in absolute frankness. [end recording]

Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir on Cairo Antiterrorism Conference, Iraq

JN1103173696 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir held an open meeting with representatives of all local and foreign media today. He spoke about Jordan's stand on terrorism, restructuring Jordanian information institutions, and other issues. More details are contained in the following report.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] During the meeting, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir broached Jordan's stand on terrorism and participation in the Sharm al-Shaykh conference on terrorism. He said: Jordan was the first to be affected by terrorism. Jordan's stands are declared and are not new vis-a-vis the terrorism of state

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and Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Jerusalem, demolition of houses, and collective punishments.

He added: Jordan is taking part in the conference because the recent terrorist operations affected Israel as well as every country seeking to bring about peace in the region.

He noted that Jordan is a basic ingredient of the peace process and is directly affected by the terrorist operations. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added: Jordan does not want to allow any of the anti-peace process forces to stop this process, even if this will mean attending a conference to ponder measures to prevent these forces from having any influence.

The minister explained: It is incorrect to say that Jordan takes part in the conference to help Israel. It is rather taking part to help all the forces that seek a just and comprehensive peace.

He went on to say: It is imperative to defend peace, which the Jordanian Government accepted, was endorsed by a great majority of the House of Representatives, and earned the support of the majority of the Jordanian people.

Wondering about the alternative to this, he said: Is it returning the Israeli army to the West Bank cities and Gaza, killing the Palestinian state when its features have started to become clearer? Should time be wasted in defining terrorism at a time when the Israeli army may reoccupy the West Bank, thus diminishing the possibilities of creating the Palestinian state?

Regarding Iraq, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: Jordan does not seek to topple the Iraqi regime. However, it believes that there has to be a change. Jordan will not take part in effecting this change, which it has nothing to do with. He asserted that Jordan is not party to any conspiracy, schemes, or plans to oust the Iraqi regime.

Regarding the flying of U.S. planes over the south of Iraq, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: This overflying did not start with the advent of the planes to Jordan and will not end at that point. The advent of the U.S. planes to Jordan is for the sake of training within the framework of an old two-month joint maneuvers program with the United States. The U.S. planes will return home after they fulfill their mission.

On restructuring the Jordanian information corporations, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: The Information Ministry has three information corporations directly affiliated with it: The Radio and Television Corporation, the Jordanian News Agency, and the Press and Publications Department. He noted: In light of world developments and the emergence of various private networks, disengaging the radio and television from the ministry aims to give them the opportunity to compete with other stations. The radio and television will have a Board of Directors that will serve as their point of reference. [end recording]

Jordan: Information Minister on Iraq, U.S. Aid, Cairo Conference

JN1203113396 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Mar 96 p 10

[Report by Tal'at Shana'ah and Hamdan al-Hajj]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said we should stop talking about canceling the Information Ministry and start discussing the required measures before this cancellation.

In his weekly meeting with the journalists at the Marriott Hotel yesterday, al-Mu'ashshir said: Our aim is to cancel the Ministry of Information as soon as possible. The government and minister of information do not believe that the current situation ideally portrays Jordan's image and message. We do not believe that the central and state-run media are the best means to portray Jordan's civilized image. Such media proved to be a failure throughout the world, the same as with a state-run economy. [passage omitted]

Asked whether the recent Jordanian-U.S. talks tackled the Iraqi issue, the information minister said it was natural to discuss this file, but nothing specific was demanded from Jordan in this respect, and talks on this issue were exploratory. He reiterated that there are no covert plans to change the Iraqi regime in cooperation with Jordan.

Regarding the Jordanian Government official spokesman's statement on the military equipment seized while on its way to Iraq through Jordan, al-Mu'ashshir said the Jordanian Government is capable of differentiating between agricultural equipment and other spare parts. He added: This case was referred to the court, and the general prosecutor has all the evidence he needs. If there is counter evidence, let the company present it to the general prosecutor, the only party authorized to study it. [passage omitted]

On U.S. assistance to Jordan, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said this assistance amounts to approximately $200 million, including $150 million in new aid that is currently being discussed by the Congress. He said this assistance will be paid over two years, $75 million each year, in addition to the previously approved $50 million.

He said during the last visit to Washington, economic assistance was discussed in detail in the presence of the central bank governor. He said U.S. assistance to Jordan

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is no longer given as a grant in light of the U.S. internal developments.

He said the Jordanian-U.S. talks aim at enhancing economic relations and activating the U.S. role in supporting Jordan economically through its contacts with other international parties such as the European Community states and Japan. [passage omitted]

Asked whether there is coordination between the Arab countries which will take part in the antiterrorism conference, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said there is a close coordination between Jordan and the various parties to the peace process which will attend this conference. Contacts were made with Egypt, the Gulf states, Syria, and all parties to the peace process. The result of these contacts was that a large number of Arab countries will attend this conference. He emphasized that we are not going there to defend Israel but to defend the peace process, since we are a main party in this process and are directly concerned with its continuation and preserving the gains and achievements. We are going to the conference with all our potential to advance the peace process and in order not to deprive the peoples of the region of the stability and prosperity they deserve.

He said 94 percent of the Palestinian people in the West Bank do not approve of these [terrorist] actions, and 78 percent approve the measures taken to stop the armed groups in the West Bank and Gaza. This proves that there is an overwhelming majority against these forces.

Regarding the tripartite Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian summit, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the summit was not delayed or canceled because no date was set for it in the first place. It was agreed to hold this tripartite meeting to help the Palestinian brothers in their negotiations on the final status. He said the summit will be held at a time to be decided by the three leaders.

He said Jordan will not be a partner in the final-status negotiations, and the tripartite summit is aimed to assist the Palestinian brothers in the manner they think appropriate and not according to the Jordanian way. He added: We will not embark on any action before the approval of the Palestinian brothers.

Jordan: Al-Nusur Reiterates Position on PLO, Jerusalem

JN1103151096 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Mar 96 pp 1, 19

[Report by Tariq al-Mumani]

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur said Jordan only recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and does not recognize any opposition faction, adding that the final say on any subject is for the Palestinian Authority which is recognized by all concerned parties.

At a meeting of the House of Representatives chaired by Speaker Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, Dr. al-Nusur said the kingdom does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem and does not accept its occupation of the city. He said that this is the last thing any Arab or Muslim can accept, and he pointed out the repeated positions and statements declared by His Majesty King Husayn on Jerusalem.

Dr. al-Nusur said Jordan rejects and opposes the deportation or arrest of citizens, and added that the kingdom does not recognize Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon or the occupation of any Arab country.

Deputy Hamzah Mansur, official spokesman for the Islamic Action Front's bloc in the House of the Representatives asked the government to boycott the antiterrorism conference which will be held in Sharm al-Shaykh with Arab and international participation next Wednesday [13 March]. He declared the bloc's rejection of the conference which he said is intended to provide protection and legitimacy for Zionist terrorism.

He asked if the occupation of Palestine, the continued occupation of Jerusalem, demolition of houses, confiscation of lands, imposition of siege, arrest and deportation of citizens, and the continued occupation of southern Lebanon are not terrorist actions.

Deputy Talal 'Ubaydat called for the release of Dr. 'Adnan al-Samadi who was arrested after the Friday sermon at al-Nu'aymah mosque.

Interior Minister Dr. 'Awad Khulayfat said if there is no case against al-Samadi, he will be immediately released, and that necessary measures will be taken in accordance with the law.

A number of deputies spoke about issues of scholarships and list of job opportunities. Finance Minister Marwan 'Awad said the list is in its final stages and will be announced soon.

The house heard replies of ministers on questions posed by a number of deputies on general issues. The house approved two articles in the general electricity law.

The house elected deputy Anwar al-Hadid as second deputy speaker of the House of Representatives. Al-Hadid won 39 votes in the second round, while his rival deputy Ahmad al-Kasasibah won 23 votes.

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Jordan: Opposition Criticizes Government Stand on Terrorism

JN1103131096 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Mar 96 pp 12, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Opposition parties in Jordan on Saturday condemned the latest Israeli actions in the occupied Arab territories and called on all Arab political parties and organisations to express their support for the Palestinian people "who are subjected to a new imperialist and Zionist attack aimed at paralysing Palestinian resistance against occupation."

In a statement issued Saturday, nine opposition parties called for confronting any security or political coordination between any Arab or Muslim state and Israel and the United States, saying that such coordination "will affect our security and jeopardise its interests and existence." The statement said the U.S. and Europe had mobilized all their forces to defend the security of Israel at a time when they "failed to show any concern for the crimes committed against entire nations, similar to what happened in Palestine."

The statement said, "the Zionist enemy had embarked on a large-scale action aimed at isolating the Arab territories occupied since 1948 from the West Bank and Gaza."

The opposition parties criticized the latest Israeli measures against the Palestinian people, including the inspection of houses, arrest of Palestinians, demolition of houses and laying siege to entire cities and towns.

Israel has turned a deaf ear to all rules and legislations banning such measures," it said.

The Israeli authorities have asked the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to raid houses and arrest people in a bid to destroy the infrastructure of Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups and to paralyse any Arab resistance against Israeli occupation, the statement said.

It added that the PNA had demonstrated unprecedented enthusiasm and seriousness in carrying out "this assignment entrusted to it by the Israeli occupiers."

The statement said that Israel had mobilised the Arab forces committed to the peace process in addition to Europe and the United States to ensure their support for its "oppressive actions and to mobilise all efforts to fight any resistance or rejection for the peace process."

The statement said the governments of Egypt and Jordan had responded to Israel's request and showed willingness to cooperate with it in "fighting what they called as terrorism."

The United States government also responded quickly and adopted effective measures ranging from showing moral support and dispatching experts and equipment to Israel, pointing accusing fingers at Iran, Sudan and Syria, and agreeing to convening of an international conference on fighting terrorism. The French government also showed an unprecedented support for these efforts," the statement said.

It held Israel responsible for "all the violence we have already seen and for any future violence."

The statement said the U.S. support for "the Zionst enemy is normal because the U.S. has publicly committed itself to maintain the security of Israel."

Moreover, the statement said, the U.S. government considers Israeli security as part of its security and "is trying to utilise this situation to take stricter measures against those who oppose its intervention in the Arab and Islamic words and to maintain a military and security presence in our homeland."

We were pained by the shift in the French position, which distanced France from De Gaulle's stand to a hostile position," the statement said.

The statement said "all those who showed enthusiasm to support Israel are purposely forgetting that Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel did not address the core of the Palestinian question."

"The agreement has enhanced the occupation of land and tried to adduce legitimacy to the Israeli occupation of Palestine," it said.

The statement said that the Jordanian government had mounted a "massive media campaign against "terrorism" and undertook to participate in any joint effort, in cooperation with the Zionist enemy and the United States, to fight what they termed as "terrorism."

The statement said the "support of the Jordanian government for the enemy's plans and claims increases contradiction between the government and people of Jordan on the one hand and between the government and our Arab and Islamic nations on the other, and consequently undermines Jordan's relations with its Arab Islamic depth.

"The statement said the government "knows that the Arab land is still occupied and that the Oslo agreement did not return any inch of the occupied land and that the Palestinian refugee problems is still waiting for a solution."

"Our Jordanian people has not agreed to make peace with the enemy and that our Arab and Islamic nations refuse to surrender to hostile plans," it said.

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The statement was signed by the Islamic Action Front, National Action Front, The Jordan Communist Party, the Ba'th Arab Progressive Party, the Jordan Arab Constitutional Front Party, the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party, the Jordan Democratic Peoples Party, the Jordan Democratic Popular Unity Party and the National Action Party.

Jordan: Prince Hasan, Israel's Baraq Discuss 'Terrorism'

JN1203135796 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

Talks during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and the international conference that will be held in Sharm al-Shaykh tomorrow to discuss ways to support the peace process and combat terrorism.

Following the meeting, Prince Hasan spoke to journalists and said:

[Begin Hasan recording] Today's talks on preparations for the Sharm al-Shaykh summit basically dealt with the ethical Jordanian position, in addition to the Jordanian position within the framework of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement that calls for joint action to combat the causes of tension and instability in the context of circumstantial or basic security conditions.

The talks dealt with the concept of the summit and its results. We spoke about terrorism, not in term of condemnation as one condemns a sin or aggression. We spoke in detail about the action that should be taken on the regional level and then on the international level to set up a mechanism that will enable this region, like other world regions and areas, to confront criminal activity, whether this is drug trafficking, arms smuggling, or money laundering as I said at an international meeting in Amman two days ago in the presence of representatives of the governments of this part of the world, including the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Lebanon, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. What I would like to say is that there is an obvious issue; namely, the issue of crime, terrorism, and distortion of the Islamic course, which believes that stability substantiates the Koranic verse which condemns suicide, jihad without a cause, and killing innocent civilians. This Islamic course, which used to be called the Islamic awakening, is basically moderate, centrist, and international. Allowing acts of violence and criminal actions to discredit Islam and Muslims and allowing the persecution of Islam and Muslims due to such acts are unacceptable. I said after an Iftar banquet during the blessed month of Ramadan that the shelling of Sarajevo and the killing of innocent people was something to be condemned. We, Muslims and Jews worked together through the international press to condemn this discrimination. We went together to Mostar and Tuzla, which are cities with Muslim communities, to condemn fighting in Bosnia. We employed the influence of the U.S. Congress, and in particular the influence of the Jewish vote in the U.S. Congress, to intervene in Bosnia and stop fighting there. We believe that the arena of joint action and common ground in condemning terrorism and terrorist organizations is one of the topics to be discussed at this summit, but we believe that action on the regional level as expressed by the visit of the Turkish president to Israel and the participation of a number of leaders — kings and presidents from the Arab and Islamic worlds — in this meeting is a reminder of our basic condemnation of such discredit and such distortion of our reputation. [end recording]

Jordan: Official Discusses Israel's Baraq Activities With AFP

NC1203102596 Paris AFP in English 0840 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, March 12 (AFP)— Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq arrived in Amman Tuesday [12 March] for talks on coordinating steps between the two countries ahead of a landmark summit on terrorism in Egypt on Wednesday, official said.

Baraq, who arrived aboard a military helicopter, held talks at the Royal Palace with Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal.

King Husayn, currently on an official visit to the United States, will travel directly to the "Summit of Peacemakers" at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Shaykh, the official added.

"Baraq's two-hour visit to Jordan aims at coordinating steps vis-a-vis the Sharm al-Shaykh summit," said Eynat Shlein-Michael [name as received] second secretary for political affairs at the Israeli embassy in Amman.

"The meeting is vital for both countries, and very important to exchange views and actions deemed against terrorism," Sheil-Michael [name as received] told AFP.

Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in October 1994.

Israel is counting on the summit to help boost the spirits of Israelis shaken by scenes of carnage on the

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streets of their major cities, while Amman wants the unprecedented gathering to salvage the Middle East peace process.

Jordan: Columnist Rejects Arab Participation in Cairo Conference

JN0903102496 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Mar 96 p 22

[From the "Spotlight" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "The Proposed Summit Is a Mistake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are diplomatic moves to hold an international summit that, according to sources, will be attended by 20 countries, mostly from this region, and will be aimed at combating terrorism and offering moral support for the Israelis.

It is a mistake for the Arabs to participate in this summit based on Israel's campaign against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. If this region needs such a summit, it needs one that has political objectives, as well as security objectives — a summit in which the peace process is reviewed and its steps are accelerated, because this is the right prelude to ending violence.

The occupation is the basis of tension in the region. The Palestinians, who have been under the yoke of occupation for decades, are the ones who need moral support. After five years of the peace process, Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon are still occupied. Any method of tackling violence should proceed from this fact.

The Irish Republican Army is responsible for violence, terrorism, and bombing cars and buildings in London, but we have not heard anyone demand an international conference to stop Irish terrorism. Why this international hypocrisy toward Israel nowadays? Israel is the only country still occupying the homeland of another people.

It is a grave mistake for the Arabs to participate in such a conference because it is a prelude to legitimizing the interference of international quarters in our region's affairs. We, as Arabs, have had enough of the negative and destructive repercussions suffered as a result of allowing international quarters to interfere in the second Gulf crisis. Even more serious than the conference is the generalization of the term "terrorism" to include all forms of resistance to the Israeli occupation. In other words, this generalization will be a permanent guarantee for the occupation that still exists, and we do not know if the peace process will guarantee its removal.

What is required is pressure on Israel to offer real initiatives toward peace. The least of these initiatives is Israel's commitment to all the provisions of the Oslo 1 and 2 agreements and its declaration that the ultimate objective of peace with the Palestinians is to recognize their right to self-determination and establishing a state. Without this, a large number of Palestinians will feel frustrated and unsure of Israel's peace intentions.

Jordan: Paper Says Egypt Summit Meant To 'Declare War' on Islam

JN1103122596 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 11 Mar 96 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sharm al-Shaykh resort on the Red Sea will host on 13 March the most dangerous international conference since the end of the Cold War. The conference is held to declare war on the Islamic jihad awakening and the pan-Arab liberation movement.

This extremely dangerous conference is fully dedicated to the Jewish enemy, world Crusades, and Middle East projects. It will be attended by representatives of 35 nations, including the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Bahrain, Yemen, Tunisia, Qatar, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority. The Kuwaiti heir apparent, the Saudi foreign minister, and representatives of the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates will also attend.

The PRC, Japan, Syria, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, and Iraq will not attend. The conference is an international gathering to support the peace process, which has received painful blows at the hands of the youths of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and Hizballah. The conference will also lay the foundations of a comprehensive international strategy to face so-called "Islamic terrorism". The conference was decided after the agencies of Israel and the Palestinian Authority failed to stop the martyrdom operations which shook the Zionist entity, weakened 'Arafat and Peres, and imperiled the alleged peace agreements.

The central objective of this conference is to champion Israel, save Peres and 'Arafat, and declare all-out war on Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hizballah. However, most participants seek to achieve personal aims as well. Clinton wants to win the votes of the Zionist lobby in the upcoming presidential elections; Yeltsin seeks to defeat the Chechen fighters; and Chirac plans to deal a blow to fundamentalists who immigrate to France. The same goes for Presidents Mubarak and Zayn El Abidine, who are engaged in a bloody conflict with fundamentalists in their countries. The Gulf shaykhs also fear Iranian-backed Shiite movements in the Gulf.

Most observers believe the conference will provide a political cover for security and intelligence operations

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against Islamic movements. It will also give the go-ahead for international security cooperation to strike at the jihad spirit and the Arab and Islamic revolutionary movements for the good of Crusade hegemony, Jewish belligerence, and the submissive regimes that revolve in the U.S.-Israeli orbit.

Political and military observers say the new war to be declared against radical Islamic movements will depend on new weapons and forces. Security agencies will replace armies. In addition, the war will depend on spying, infiltration, and secret liquidation. Public confrontation will be very limited. The new war will also depend on draining sources of finance and armament and limiting the centers and areas from which these movements can act.

The CIA has already taken action to promote cooperation and coordination between the various pro-America security agencies. The deputy director of the CIA is currently leading a high-level delegation and touring a number of Middle East countries. The purpose of his tour is to mobilize the security agencies of these countries against "Islamic terrorism".

Observers say the security attacks on Islamic awakening and Arab liberation movements will be accompanied by intensive media campaigns to empty Islam of its jihad content and employ "scholars of the rulers" to issue fatwas to the effect that the mujahidin are violating Islamic Shari'ah, which is characterized by moderation, peacefulness, and tolerance. Let alone the call for renouncing violence and reviving bonds of brotherhood among the "sons of Abraham".

One observer concluded that America and its allies have given precedence to Israeli security over Arab peace, and that they are in the process of persuading some Arab regimes to declare public support for Israel, even if this is done at the expense of those regimes, their security, stability, and the interests of their people.

Jordan: Leaders Urged To Seek Long-Term Solutions to Terrorism

JN0903080096 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Mar 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Priority for Ending Bloodshed]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In his inaugural speech at the first session of the newly elected Palestinian legislative council, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat echoed a call made earlier in the week by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan for the convening of an international conference to combat terrorism. Such a conference is now set to convene on Wednesday [13 March] in Egypt. 'Arafat's call for such a conference stems from his fear that Palestinian and Jewish extremism, if not checked, could wreak havoc with the peace process and could delay final status negotiations with Israel. President 'Arafat has in effect, therefore, joined the wagon of many leaders, including U.S. President Bill Clinton, who all see an urgent need for such a conference.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who also called for such a gathering, following the recent suicide attacks in Israel, has more than Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in mind since his country also has been plagued with terror acts.

This freshly emerging stance on terrorism, though, contrasts quite visibly and sharply with earlier Arab postures on the matter. In the 1993 human rights summit in Vienna, some Arab delegates protested that struggle against terrorism should not exclude dealing with its root causes. Now, it seems, a majority of Arab capitals are moving effectively into the international camp that wishes to put an end to the phenomenon.

We are certainly behind every credible international or regional effort to eliminate all acts of terrorism whatever their source. There is certainly no excuse for the shedding of innocent blood. We also support every sincere effort to bring all those responsible for terrorism in all its forms and manifestations to justice.

At the same time we recognise that combating terrorism in an effective way requires also comprehending its root causes. Just as medicine cannot hope to eradicate cancer effectively and permanently just by surgical procedures, the international community must also be prepared to study the phenomenon of terrorism in depth in conjunction with the application of police measures to combat it as a short term solution. All societies which suffer from terrorism must surely be interested in long term solutions to the crisis and not just quick fixes to a rather complex question.

There should be no conflict between the two objectives and the sooner the interested parties recognise the compatibility of the two desired ends, the sooner can the resolution of the problem of terrorism be attained.

Jordan: Daily Optimistic About Cairo Antiterrorism Conference

JN1003162896 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Mar 96 p 1

[Editorial: "We are Optimistic About the Peace-Makers Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The optimism expressed by His Majesty King Husayn about the projected results of the international conference on combating terrorism

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and supporting the Middle East peace process reflects a Jordanian and Arab optimism vis-a-vis the convening of this conference and the determination of world leaders to stem this international phenomenon.

The convening of this summit, which will bring together the leaders of the most prominent countries, is a significant event in itself, especially since it will be held against the backdrop of a series of bloody terrorist incidents. These incidents have threatened progress on the peace process and could have eliminated all the efforts exerted over the past four years to bring about a peaceful end to the long-standing historic conflict in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that Jordan, which will take part in the peace-makers summit in Sharm al-Shaykh on Wednesday [13 March], is a leading country in terms of renouncing terrorism and abiding by peace. This qualifies Jordan to play a significant role to achieve the projected goals of this international summit, which is unprecedented in terms of combating terrorism and supporting the peace process.

It is hoped that the Sharm al-Shaykh conference will go beyond discussions of security arrangements to stave off terrorist operations and remove the root causes of this international phenomenon. It is hoped that the summit will seek to complete the peace process and give every possible assistance to the parties concerned to overcome the obstacles blocking their way.

In light of all these facts, optimism about the success of Sharm al-Shaykh conference is justifiable. The participating countries possess enough intrinsic powers and have vested interests which will prompt the leaders of this conference to give conclusive international assistance to stem violence and save the peace process from the many difficulties miring it.

Jordan: Cairo Antiterrorism Summit Called 'Step on the Right Course'

JN1003175996 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan said the upcoming international summit in Egypt was a step on the right course toward a global effort in the fight against terrorism. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, told the visiting Romanian parliamentary delegation that he hoped that security and political dimensions will be interlocked with the cultural dimension. The delegation commended Jordan's peace efforts and the kingdom's leading role in interfaith dialogue.

At a separate meeting with the Romanian delegation, Interior Minister 'Awad Khulayfat reiterated that Jordan stood firm against violence, extremism, and terrorism in line with its principles which characterized its moderation. He said the opposition in Jordan was part of the democratic process, and dealing with it would remain on the basis of dialogue and putting the national interest above other considerations.

Jordan: Reinforcing Peace Seen as Best Way To Fight Terrorism

JN0903074496 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Mar 96 p 1

[Editorial: "A Summit To Protect Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan is eager to protect the regional peace process from the dangers of terrorist acts perpetrated by forces that oppose peace on all fronts. Jordan is also concerned about the right of all people of the region to security, stability, and justice under peace.

His Majesty King Husayn has not stopped voicing the need to besiege and isolate the enemies of peace who disagree with the absolute will of the majority to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

Because of this, Jordan has been the first to respond to every comprehensive international and regional effort to combat all forms, sources, and justifications of terrorism. It does this not to maintain the accomplishments on the road to peace so far, but to reinforce the chances of building peace and its requirements in terms of security and stability today and in the future.

Within this context, the two great leaders — His Majesty King Husayn and President Bill Clinton — assessed the peace process in light of the recent acts of violence that accompanied the bombings in Jerusalem, Ashqelon, and Tel Aviv. During the assessment, they asserted the need to end all forms of terrorism, reinforce the peace process, and protect it from terrorism and enemies of peace.

Also within this context is the international summit to protect the peace process, which will be held in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt, on 13 March. This summit — which will be attended by a number of presidents from the Middle East and the world and by Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin, the cosponsors of the peace process since it was launched in Madrid five years ago — reinforces the accomplishments of peace and pushes the entire peace process forward.

We hope that the terrorism adopted by a few people will not overshadow the peace adopted by the majority of the people in the region. We believe that the best way to fight terrorism is to reinforce peace and entrench it on the ground.

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Jordan: Al-Kabariti Returns, Says King's Visit to U.S. 'Successful'

JN1003203596 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 96

[News conference by Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti with unidentified correspondents upon his return from the United States at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman on 10 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Prime Minister al-Kabariti. What are the tangible results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States?

[Al-Kabariti] The visit included discussion of all aspects of our relations with the United States on the political, economic, and security levels. Naturally, we reviewed the stages the peace process is going through and the obstacles that could delay this process as result of recent events. We also reviewed the agenda of the proposed conference in Egypt and results it could yield to push peace efforts forward.

On the security level, we reviewed the program to provide Jordan with military assistance and enable it to acquire very sophisticated equipment, particularly F-16 planes. On the economic level, there is a plan that was drawn up in advance. We have some requests that were followed up by the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan. I believe that the visit was successful.

[Correspondent] Mr. prime minister. How do you explain the contradiction in statements you and Minister of Information al-Mu'ashshir made concerning the military exercises [preceding two words in English], I mean the joint exercises [preceding two words in English] that will be carried out, given that Minister of Information al-Mu'ashshir said that these exercises will include sorties over southern Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] During my visit to Bahrain while accompanying his highness the crown prince, I was briefed on the details of the military exercises program. At the time, I felt that it is an excellent program, which we can benefit from if the United States agrees to implement it in Jordan for a temporary period of no more than two months.

The presence of these [U.S.] forces in Jordan will be in response to a Jordanian request. Their presence will provide us an opportunity to train our pilots and benefit from U.S. experience in military exercises, particularly air operations. The planes will conduct surveillance sorties over southern Iraq in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Needless to say, we in Jordan are committed to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions. I do not think that there is any contradiction between what the minister of information said and what I said in the United States.

[Correspondent] Does this represent a new stage of U.S.-Jordanian coordination regarding Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] Not at all. It does not represent any new stage, just as it is not a response to any new developments. It is a continuation of joint exercise programs between us and the U.S. forces. I believe that there will be some Arab participation to benefit from these exercises that will be carried out next month, God willing.

[Correspondent] Mr. prime minister. What is expected of the summit that will be held on Wednesday?

[Al-Kabariti] First of all, I must note that we in Jordan will not be lenient and will not allow anyone to undermine our national unity, our young democracy, and the freedom of which we are proud. I believe that any indication that Jordan has failed to perform its duties toward making peace or combating terrorism is a false claim that we will not accept or tolerate.

Jordan's stands on the peace process and combating terrorism are clear and well known to everyone. I believe that Jordan was a victim of terrorism for years. We hope and seek, we have always hoped and sought to make combating terrorism an international matter. This is so the international community can discuss the roots of and reasons behind terrorism on the social, economic, and security levels and deal with them. We hope that this conference will be the right forum to discuss the process of making peace and its obstacles and to discuss the issues of the parties and forces that adopt terrorism as a method of achieving political objectives. These are well known parties that are seeking to keep the region in a swamp of hatred and rancor and are seeking to stop the peace process, which we believe has made major accomplishments. This peace process could have in a short time enabled this region to achieve its objectives and the Palestinian people to establish their Palestinian state.

I believe that anyone who is trying to obstruct this process is really harming the Arab people's cause and the Palestinian issue. We hope that this conference will yield a new international political willpower that cuts the road on those forces that adopted terrorism as a means to terrorize and kill innocent people and the opportunity to achieve peace in the region. Thank you.

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Jordan: King Husayn's Activities in U.S. Reported

JN1203080696 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn has visited the Jordanian Embassy in Washington. His majesty the king was received by the Jordanian Ambassador to the United States Fayiz al-Tarawinah and the embassy staff. He was briefed on the embassy's duties and its role in explaining the Jordanian stands and views at all levels and in serving Jordanian citizens all around the United States.

During his visit, his majesty the king issued his directives for following up the implementation of the Amman Declaration stemming out of Amman economic summit aimed at enhancing investment in Jordan and developing trade relations with the United States. His majesty also asserted his keenness on strengthening the relationship between Jordanians abroad and their country. His majesty also called on the Jordanian military attache's office and was briefed on his duties and contacts with the concerned sides in the United States and his efforts to support, modernize, and develop the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The king also paid a visi' to the Jordanian information office at the embassy. He was briefed on the office's duties and its contacts with the U.S. information sources as well as its efforts in providing the U.S. decisionmakers with basic information about the kingdom, particularly the U.S. Congress.

At the end of his visit, his majesty the king voiced satisfaction over the distinguished level that Jordanian institutions in Washington have achieved in the diplomatic, military, and information fields.

His majesty was accompanied during the visit by the chief of the Royal Court, 'Awn al-Khasawinah.

Jordan: Report Rounds Up King's Talks in Washington

JN0803210096 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Mar 96

[Report by Kassab Samawi in Washington; italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the successful meeting His Majesty King Husayn had with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House, a series of important contacts and meetings were held yesterday between His Majesty King Husayn on the one hand and senior U.S. Administration officials on the other. The king also met with other figures.

His Majesty King Husayn met at the Department of State with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They discussed bilateral ties and the means to strengthen and develop them in all fields. They also discussed the latest developments in the peace process, particularly those related to the recent bombings in Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Tel Aviv which aimed to torpedo and obstruct the peace process and to return the region to a state of tension and conflict. The two sides voiced their commitment to the peace process and stressed that they decisively stand against all elements of extremism and terrorism, with all its form, to prevent any attempt that seeks to obstruct the peace process or harm the interests of the region.

[Unidentified correspondent] *Your Majesty: How was the meeting?*

[Husayn] *Successful, good, and frank. It was dominated by frankness and clarity. We discussed all matters.*

[Correspondent] *Did you discuss Iraq?*

[Husayn] *Iraq is part of the challenges we are facing in our region. Therefore, we had to discuss Iraq and other issues.*

[Correspondent] *Your Majesty: Is there a clear picture as regards the measures which Jordan and the United States can take to prevent the recent events in the region from affecting the future of the peace process?*

[Husayn] *There is a serious discussion of the measures that may be taken. There is also discussion of a possible meeting, to be held at the highest level in the region in the near future, in the presence of our friends in the world. All these things are under discussion.*

[Correspondent] *Your Majesty: Do you think the peace process is in danger following the recent operations?*

[Husayn] *I believe that the enemies of peace and the enemies of life tried very hard to harm the peace process and what has been achieved and what will, God willing, be achieved despite everybody.*

His Majesty King Husayn received Arab ambassadors to the United States at his residence in Washington last night. His majesty briefed the ambassadors on recent events and developments in the Middle East, especially those concerning the peace process. His majesty stressed the need for intensified efforts and joint cooperation to stand against terrorism and extremism and against attempts by enemies of peace to stop the Middle East peace process, return the region to a state of tension and instability, and make room for the reoccupation of Arab territories.

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His majesty noted that opposing terrorism and extremism requires joint regional and international effort, based on the cooperation of all peoples of the region to ensure the continuity of the peace process.

His Majesty King Husayn also spoke to the Arab ambassadors about the possibility of convening an international conference in sisterly Egypt to discuss ways to fight terrorism and extremism, the leaders and members of which are seeking to torpedo the peace process.

In addition, his majesty spoke about the magnitude of the suffering and the harsh circumstances the Iraqi people are facing under the embargo from outside and under oppression and deprivation of their simplest rights from within. He underlined Jordan's concern for Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, and Jordan's eagerness to make every possible effort to end the plight of the Iraqi people and enable them to live a free and decent life within a framework of respect for human rights.

[Jordanian Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir] *As you know, Jordan supported the call by Egypt to convene an international conference to fight terrorism. That idea was discussed with the Americans today. There are moves to convene such a conference in the very near future, possibly next week. That conference will be attended by regional and other states, and may be attended by President Clinton in person, to coordinate efforts to support the peace process and fight terrorism, and to take practical steps in this direction.*

[Samawi] *There was an official U.S. statement concerning the sending of warplanes to Jordan to participate in joint exercises with Jordan and regional states. Can you clarify this measure?*

[Al-Mu'ashshir] *In fact, these arrangements are part of the program of joint exercises which was agreed upon between the Jordanian Armed Forces and the U.S. Army. These arrangements will be for two months, during which some F-16 and F-15 warplanes will be sent to Jordan. Jordanian Air Force pilots will be trained on how to fly these planes before Jordan receives a number of F-16's from the United States. These planes will also make reconnaissance flights over southern Iraq in implementation of UN Security Council 949. Therefore, these are not new arrangements, but they have specific timeframe and objectives.*

In the presence of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and members of the Jordanian delegation, His Majesty King Husayn last night received U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown.

The two sides discussed economic cooperation between Jordan and the United States. Brown expressed his country's support for Jordan's efforts in the field of development and encouraging mutual investment by reinforcing the private sector's role within the framework of regional cooperation that was emphasized in the recommendations of the Amman Economic Summit, which set up a clear mechanism to proceed in this field.

Asked about the most significant results of King Husayn's talks with the U.S. Administration in Washington, particularly as regards the bilateral ties, Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said:

[Al-Mu'ashshir] *First, we discussed the military aid which the United States plans to give to Jordan, particularly the F-16 squadron. The legislative steps in the Congress are proceeding in a very positive manner, and in the right direction. I believe that Jordan will get these planes. We also discussed the economic ties and the need for the United States to support Jordan's economic endeavors. We discussed this matter in detail. The United States demonstrated a readiness and a very positive spirit to support Jordan in this regard.*

Jordan: King Address U.S. Smithsonian Seminar on Peace, Democracy

JN0803200596 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Mar 96

[Speech by King Husayn of Jordan at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. on 7 March, in English; monitored in progress — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] .... [Jordan] now is on its way to becoming a model and an example within our region of a pluralistic society. It has been a home over its history for those who escaped repression, sought freedom, and freedom of expression. And I hope that as time progresses, Jordan will always be not only a country where an individual matters as much as the nation, but where in freedom and with a sense of responsibility, people share in defining their future and achieving their objectives.

I believe one of the greatest weaknesses in our region is the absence of democracy, the absence of a very important ingredient: The recognition that an individual is worthy of something, that he has rights, that he has a place under the sun. We hope that in Jordan we will provide an example and an inspiration to others, because we believe that no one can stop the clock, no one can turn its hands back. So people either move forward in a process of healthy evolution with debate, and with discussion, and collectively seek and achieve their objectives, or the alternative is too awful to contemplate.

Many have spoken about peace and whether it should be a warm peace or a cold peace or I don't know what.

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But as far as I am concerned, in our dictionary, and our vocabulary, and our understanding the worst is a state of war and despair, and one equally like it a state of no war and no peace, and then there is peace. And peace is peace and there is no thermometer attached to it to measure whether it is warm or otherwise. It gives people the opportunities that they never had before. It gives them the chance to come to grips with real problems with the challenge of living, developing, help energies and resources harnessed to create something worthwhile. That is where we are.

We hope that the Palestinians will continue to move ahead in terms of what remains to be addressed and discussed and solved — in terms of their legitimate rights on their soil. We hope and pray that Jerusalem will become the city of peace and the essence of peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis on the one hand, and as far as the Old City that will become the symbol of peace between the children of Abraham and their descendants for all times to come, under the sovereignty of the Almighty, our one God.

We hope that Syria and Lebanon will move soon. We hope that the whole region will come to enjoy a life denied it for so long. I can only assure you that towards these ends, this is my commitment, and this is my promise and this is what has made my whole life worthwhile. And as I told Jordanians earlier on, it is my legacy to them and my present to them.

And as far as terrorism is concerned, and as far as recent happenings are concerned, I am as angry, as revolted, as upset by what has happened as anyone in this world, because some of these acts are designed to provoke reactions brought about by anger, by the horror. But the objective we should never forget is the destruction of peace. As far as I am concerned, I belong and so do the overwhelming majority of people in our region, Israelis and Arabs alike, to the camp of peace. Let us not permit a small minority to destroy all that we have achieved and the promise of tomorrow. Thank you.

Jordan: King Said Warned of Assassination Plan

NC1103212596 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 2 Mar 96 pp 1, 13

[Report by Badra Bakhus al-Fighali in Paris]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Western diplomatic report from Amman says King Husayn moved up his tour of Europe and the United States after the murder of [Saddam Husayn's brother-in-law] Husayn Kamil and after receiving warnings from U.S. and Israeli intelligence services that there would be an Iraqi attempt against his life. The tour was supposed to start on 6 March and not the end of February.

The diplomatic report did not rule out that these warnings were part of a well-prepared plan by Washington and Tel Aviv to liquidate King Husayn through their intelligence services and then blame the Iraqi regime for the incident. This would then justify a U.S. military operation to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime.

The report said what strengthens this possibility is the widespread campaign of arrests that the Jordanian security services have begun among Iraqis living in Jordan, as well as the anticipated Jordanian decision to reduce the members of the Iraqi diplomatic mission in Jordan, including informing Iraqi Ambassador Nuri al-Wayyis that his presence in Jordan is no longer desirable.

The report said relations between al-Wayyis, who was the hero of the departure of Husayn Kamil from Jordan, and Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti have been and still are very tense. Even when he was foreign minister and before he became prime minister, al-Kabariti publicly criticized the moves and activities of the Iraqi ambassador and officially informed him several times that he should not overstep diplomatic boundaries.

The report noted that al-Kabariti officially summoned Ambassador al-Wayyis last week and asked him for an explanation of what happened to Husayn Kamil. Al-Wayyis' response was that the Jordanian request was considered an interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. This angered al-Kabariti prompting him to say that there is no value for human life in Iraq and to describe the murder of Husayn Kamil as a criminal act. [passage omitted]

Jordan: King's Visit to U.S. Viewed With 'Optimism'

JN0803130396 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Mar 96 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Husayn-Clinton Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn's visit to Washington and his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton — which come amid important developments and within an atmosphere of friendship and mutual respect — reinforce bilateral relations and increase the depth and scope of joint understanding between the two political leaderships.

It was natural for the agenda of the Jordanian-U.S. summit to include a number of bilateral issues and a series of regional topics that are of priority interest to both Amman and Washington, given that Jordan and the United States play very important roles in influencing the course of events in the Middle East.

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Therefore, current developments in the peace process topped the agenda of the Jordanian-U.S. meeting. This is especially so since, at these critical times, other parties to the peace camp are making coordinated efforts, not only to contain the negative repercussions of the recent bloody bombings, but also to maintain the peace process and ultimately reach its desired objective.

The Iraqi issue was not absent from the Husayn-Clinton meeting, given that domestic developments in Iraq constitute a significant share of Jordanian and U.S. interests. This is especially so since the Iraqi people have been subjected to all kinds of siege, inside and outside Iraq, and since the issue of extricating the Iraqi people from the harsh ordeals they face has been the focus of regional and international interest.

We view the results of the Husayn-Clinton summit, which comes at a decisive and fateful moment in the Middle East region, with great confidence and optimism. Furthermore, we hope that the results of this summit will increase the United States' understanding of Jordan's economic and defense needs given that Jordan plays an indispensable and vital role toward achieving security, stability, balance, and moderation in this important part of the world.

Jordan: Editorial Views Clinton-Husayn Meeting, Peace Moves

JN0803195296 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Mar 96 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Husayn-Clinton Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The summit meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Clinton is especially important because it follows the renewed cycle of violence and counterviolence particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track and the halt in the Syrian-Israeli Maryland talks. These developments require a second reading of the peacemaking process and the possible building of peace in the entire region.

Since the U.S. Administration is concerned with the peace process, which it planned and launched and of which it is the primary sponsor under President Clinton personally, then it is the duty of the United States, with the help of the peace partisans on both the Arab and Israeli sides, to besiege the enemies of peace on the Arab, Israeli, and international levels.

President Clinton will certainly find His Majesty helpful in providing everything that serves the continuation of the peace process in view of the full trust and substantial credibility he enjoys among the Palestinian and Israeli peoples as well as on the world's peace map in addition to his majesty's excellent reputation in the international arena, especially the United States itself.

Within this context, the king told reporters before the White House talks yesterday that it was necessary to adopt coordinated action to prevent those responsible for the recent bloody bombings from continuing their activities because the majority of the Arabs and Israelis support peace and because the extremist minority on both sides is united against peace—a minority which must be stopped and reigned.

President Clinton praised the efforts of the peace partisans, asking everybody to exert further efforts to besiege, isolate, and uproot terrorism.

We would like to note the deep bilateral relations between Jordan and the United States. We expect these relations to witness further development following the current talks, whether through U.S. support for our Armed Forces with the most sophisticated planes and equipment or through U.S. efforts to back Jordan's economic development. This could be done by granting loans, facilities, and investments or by helping Jordan solve the problem of its debts to the various states, funds, and banks.

Jordan: Military Exercises Have 'No Link' to Regional Situation

MM1103131996 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Jordan Will Not Allow Its Territory To Be Used To Launch Military Move To Topple Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Washington, Ankara, AL-HAYAH — Jordan announced yesterday that it will not allow any quarter to use its territory "to carry out any military action" to topple the Iraqi regime. King Husayn concluded his talks in Washington with senior U.S. officials with a meeting with Defense Secretary William Perry. The White House issued a statement saying that President Bill Clinton, who received the Jordanian monarch the day before yesterday, "welcomed the king's firm position on Iraq" and renewed his pledged to support Jordan "in confronting the economic and military threats or any other threats from Iraq."

Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told AL-HAYAH in Washington that the deployment of 34 U.S. fighter aircraft in Jordan for two months as of mid-April "is associated with the decision to conduct regular joint military exercises with friendly states and is designed to benefit the Jordanian Armed Forces and develop and improve their defensive capabilities."

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Al-Kabariti stressed that "there is no link at all between these joint military exercises and any regional developments... with regard either to Iraq or to the escalation in violence in Israel and the areas controlled by the Palestinian National Authority."

With regard to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait he said that "the kingdom's position on the idea of any Arab state's using its weapons against a fraternal Arab state is well known."

Al-Kabariti, who accompanied King Husayn at the official talks in Washington, said that the joint military exercises, which will continue for two months, are being staged in response to Jordan's request to train Royal Jordanian Air Force pilots in flying F-16's. Jordan will soon be receiving 16 F-16's." [passage omitted]

Jordan: Iran Urged Not To Interfere in Country's Internal Affairs

JN1103213396 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister 'Awad Khulayfat called on Iran to understand the Jordanian position which calls for fighting extremism, violence, and terrorism which affects the stability of countries and peoples.

In a meeting with Mohammed Fallah, adviser to the Iranian president and secretary general of the anti-narcotics committee, the minister said that this Jordanian stand is unnegotiable under any circumstances. He told the Iranian ambassador, who attended the meeting, that Iranian diplomats should stop interfering in the internal affairs of Jordan.

The guest delegation and the Iranian ambassador confirmed that Iran supports Jordan's stand. They promised every possible effort to prevent any Iranian person or group from interfering in Jordanian internal affairs.

The meeting was attended by Major General Nasuh Muhyi-al-Din, director of the Public Security.

The interior minister asserted Jordan's constant care for cooperation between Iran and other countries to combat drugs, traffickers, and dealers.

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Lebanon: Invitation to Sharm al-Shaykh Summit Turned Down

NC1103124896 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Report from Yazbik Wahbah at the Presidential Palace in B'abda]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lebanon has apologized; it will not be attending the Sharm al-Shyakh summit. President Ilyas al-Hirawi conveyed Lebanon's response to the U.S. invitation in a reply sent to the White House via diplomatic channels.

The response expresses hope that a summit will be held to support the peace process and advance its negotiating tracks instead of mobilizing international capabilities for something over which officials largely differ. It says a distinction should be made between terrorism and the legitimate right to defend our occupied territories and that things should always proceed from the spirit of the Madrid conference.

The decision not to attend the summit was made after consultations among President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, now in Brazil, was informed of the decision. Consultations and more than one contact were held with Damascus for coordination. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Birri—Summit 'Useless' Without Israeli Withdrawal

NC1103223796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has stressed that Lebanon only wants peace and an end to the international terrorism that it is subjected to. He said Lebanon is an independent state, will continue to be so, and will preserve every single inch of its border. He said if Israel wants to withdraw from Lebanon, peace will be achieved; otherwise, conferences will be useless.

Speaker Birri stressed: No one can usurp our occupied territory; it will remain in our memory and the memory of the world. The south is an integral part of Lebanon, and the solution lies in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425.

Birri pointed out that the resistance is a card for peace. He was speaking in a meeting with the Lebanese community in Sao Paulo on the second day of his visit to Brazil. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Hizballah Claims Peace Summit as U.S. Attempt To Aid Israel

NC1103123596 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0645 GMT 11 Mar 96

[From the "Our Islamic Press" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Debris of Peace," AL-BILAD says that again the U.S. Administration is intervening to save the Zionist entity from its crisis. Again the United States is employing all its might, prestige, relations, and sophisticated agencies to prevent the collapse of its major process—peace—aimed at establishing a new Middle East order led by its Zionist ally.

The four martyrdom operations carried out by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] mujahidin in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv have shaken the Zionist entity and terrified its leaders and settlers as well as the U.S. Administration, as much as if the operations were carried out in Washington and New York. Irrespective of the U.S. president's love of the Jews and hatred of the Arabs, his maximum alert stemmed not from this emotion, but from a desire to defend a course, policy, and plan that he has endorsed in the region and considers to be one of his achievements—if it were to succeed.

The recent operations unmasked the truth of the alleged peace, veiled by promises of security, prosperity, and reassurances. They revealed that these promises are transparent and deceptive and are only a superficial veneer hiding the bitter reality that the Americans and Israelis are trying to impose on the Palestinian people in particular and the Arabs in general. The debris of the U.S.-Zionist peace has been scattered in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv along with the bits and pieces of the occupation soldiers, turning their peace into a wreckage.

What has the Oslo agreement done for the Palestinians while the nightmare of the occupation has continued? It added a police force from their own people to assist the occupation in repressing and arresting them. The former commanders turned from a role in a revolution to liberate Palestine into military generals serving the occupation of Palestine. 'Arafat implements the Zionist resolutions to quell his own people. He launched a large-scale arrest campaign and imposed rigorous measures on mosques, schools, and universities as an obedient soldier. Shim'on Peres did not hide this. He told journalists that 'Arafat was requested to do that and he obliged. What has the Oslo agreement done for the Zionist settlers? Where is the alleged security? Could agreements signed on paper between the occupiers and collaborators achieve peace and provide security? The martyrdom operations serve as a testimony to the world

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that the Palestinian people are wronged and repressed by the occupation and are ready to die for their freedom and the independence of their country. This is a right acknowledged by every law and one that no one can deny.

Attempts to portray the issue as a war between the supporters and enemies of peace will be to no avail. The issue remains the same—occupation and resistance to this occupation by a people who want liberation and refuse the domination of the strong over the oppressed. The Israeli measures will not solve the problem or end the impasse. The problem is not new. The more the repression and pressure, the more the tension and explosions. The policy of deportation, should the enemy repeat it, will only lead to more resentment and wrath against the occupation.

Regarding the U.S. measures, they are of a political nature even though they take some practical forms. This is not the first time the U.S. Administration has sent out advanced weapons and modern explosive-detection equipment. The Zionist entity is in possession of this U.S. technology. But no equipment capable of detecting a martyrdom mujahid has been discovered. And it will never be discovered. This is not the first time the U.S. president has alerted his Arab, Western, and Asian friends against what he calls terrorism. Even his call to hold an international conference to fight terrorism and impose strict measures against the Islamic movements or his attempts to impose a political and financial embargo on Iran are not new. All these attempts are intended to generate a reassuring climate for the confused and panicked enemy prime minister, who is afraid of his future because the martyrdom operations placed him in a very vulnerable position. He cannot retaliate because this would wreck the coordinated U.S.-Israeli process. He is also afraid to remain silent because this would boost his opponents in the Likud and give them better opportunities to win the elections.

Hamas operations have succeeded militarily and security-wise and have shown great capabilities in planning, organizing, and timing. This is an important qualitative stride in the growing intifadah struggle. The fog of settlement will not mislead or curb it.

The martyrdom operations moved the intifadah to a position of action and the enemy to a position of reaction. The enemy leadership, especially Prime Minister Peres, is faced with an impasse, which explains the whole U.S. scenario. The smokescreen is aimed at undermining the intifadah and scaring it into a retreat. But the intifadah's back is to the wall because the enemies have tightened the noose and given the people only two options—capitulate and kneel down or resist. It seems Palestine has opted for resistance. Other countries will follow suit.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Says No Deviation From Coordination With Syria

NC1103205596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met at the B'abda Palace tonight.

Following the meeting, Prime Minister al-Hariri stressed that Lebanon will not deviate from its policy of permanent and constant coordination with Syria, especially on joint fateful issues, foremost of them being the liberation of the south, western al-Biqa', and the Golan. Nor will it deviate from the policy of commitment to the declared objectives of comprehensive and just peace, without which the cause of peace in the Middle East will remain susceptible to dangers and setbacks.

The prime minister said the meeting was an opportunity to assess the general situation in the region, and relations between the two fraternal countries in light of current and expected developments. These include the attempts to turn the peace issue away from the principles on which the Madrid conference was based and in directions that do not serve the peace cause in the first place.

Lebanon: Rejectionist Leader Says Training Suicide 'Terrorists'

TA1203110696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the heads of the Palestinian Rejectionist Front, Colonel Munir Miqdah, who is staying in south Lebanon, says his organization is training terrorists for suicide attacks in Israel. Munir Miqdah claims the training is taking place at 'Ayn al-Hulwah near Sidon.

Munir Miqdah is a former member of Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organization, which he quit after the signing of the Oslo accords.

Lebanon: U.S. Targets Said Facing Threats From 'Suicide Elements'

NC1103215696 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 4 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Badra al-Fighali from Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to press reports in Paris, new threats have been issued by extremist Islamists about the possibility of attacks in Egypt,

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Saudi Arabia, and Jordan that would target Americans specifically and not other Western nationals.

The reports say that the United States and its interests in the Middle East are facing threats from suicide elements, who oppose its domineering policy and its extensive presence in some Arab countries. According to these reports, the United States has adopted strict security measures to protect its nationals and interests in a number of Arab countries.

Diplomatic reports from Riyadh, Amman, and Cairo say the U.S. embassies in these capitals have received worrying information on the possibility of the existence of plans to attack U.S. targets and interests in these three countries. The reports say the U.S. embassies are cooperating with the security authorities of these countries and are taking additional measures to protect American nationals.

Reports indicate that a number of U.S. officials have changed their travel plans to these countries, perhaps due to the seriousness of these threats.

Lebanon: Syrian Proposal To Postpone Arab League Meeting Backed

NC1103161496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has announced that Lebanon has supported a Syrian proposal to postpone the meetings of the Arab League council scheduled to be held the day after tomorrow until 18 March.

A source said that the Syrian proposal to postpone the 105th Arab League council meetings was due to the fact that the Sharm al-Shaykh summit to discuss ways of combatting terrorism is being held on the same day.

Lebanon: Nasrallah on Possibility of Fighting Israelis 'Everywhere'

NC1103125796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah today stressed that Hizballah may be forced to resist the Israelis everywhere. In a statement to the London-based AL-WASAT, he said there has been no confrontation of the Israelis outside the land where they exist but added: I cannot guarantee the future, because events will largely depend on the level of the conflict.

Discussing the U.S. and Israeli threats against Hizballah and the Islamic movements, Nasrallah said: We have grown used to hearing a great deal about U.S. and Israeli exaggeration. These threats, he said, do not frighten us completely. He stressed that Hizballah is fighting a battle of defense of our nation and land with awareness and faith.

Regarding U.S. accusations against Iran, Nasrallah said that when they have a problem with their people they hasten to blame Syria and Iran and ignore that the cause behind all violence and killing is the Zionist usurpation of Palestinian territory and other Arab territory. He said that what is happening is a result of events, not the cause.

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Syria: Al-Asad To Boycott Cairo Terrorism Summit

NC1103161696 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sharm Al-Shaykh, Egypt, March 11 (AFP) — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will not join other world leaders at a summit on terrorism here on Wednesday, Egyptian leader Husni Mubarak said Monday [11 March].

Mubarak told reporters here: "I am sure he (al-Asad) is not coming. He has his own point of view."

The Egyptian president arrived here Monday with his foreign minister, 'Amr Musa, to help prepare for the unprecedented summit to be held Wednesday at the Red Sea resort.

Syria is yet to officially respond to an invitation to attend the summit, called by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Mubarak in response to a wave of Islamic suicide bombings in Israel in which 61 died.

Syria: Mashariqah Reiterates Peace as 'Strategic Option'

JN1103185996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the Executive Bureau of the Teachers Association held a central speech rally on the Arab teacher's day at the martyr Basil al-Asad Sports Hall in Tartus this morning. Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah deputized for President al-Asad in attending the rally. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mashariqah addressed the rally. He conveyed President al-Asad's heartfelt greetings, best wishes, and congratulations to all masses of teachers as well as al-Asad's high appreciation for the great efforts they exert for the homeland's loftiness and for achieving its aspirations in terms of progress, development, and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mashariqah said: Syria is now a great regional power which is taken into consideration regarding all issues. Syria also controls its national decisionmaking which is committed to the nation's supreme pan-Arab interest. This is because Syria expresses the masses' aspirations for achieving their national and pan-Arab objectives.

Discussing Syria's constants regarding the peace process, Dr. Mashariqah asserted that peace is Syria's strategic option. Peace is based on the principles of rights and justice and on the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

He also emphasized that Syria wants to achieve a just and comprehensive peace which will give everyone his rights and lead to Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon and all occupied territories. Such peace will also provide security and stability for all parties in the region, he said.

Dr. Mashariqah added: Syria has stressed that there is no room for selling out an inch of land or bargaining over any right. It has also emphasized that it cannot yield to pressures or blackmail.

Concluding his speech, Dr. Mashariqah asserted that the people's masses are determined to continue their victorious march—the march of serious work, freedom, and democracy—under President struggler Hafiz al-Asad until they achieve their aspirations in the fields of construction and liberation and their great pan-Arab objectives. [passage omitted]

Syria: Press on Peace Process, Returning to Madrid Conference

JN1203093796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 12 Mar 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN asserts Syria's concern about the peace process and its commitment to fair principles to achieve peace. The whole world values Syria's constructive role in the peace process, except for some hateful voices from Israel, which are trying once again to accuse Syria of terrorism.

TISHRIN affirms that such false accusations will not affect Syria's positions, nor undermine its good standing. In addition, past developments confirmed that Damascus does not yield to blackmail and does only what it wants and what serves its interests and those of the Arab nation.

The paper speaks about the opportunities of peace and their importance for all the countries of the region, pointing out that the continuation of the tendency of aggression, expansion, and terrorism in Israel's policy will definitely destroy all peace opportunities and will increase tension and the threat of wars in this region. The Arabs provided an historic opportunity when they declared their desire for peace with Israel. Instead of responding to this sincere desire, the rulers of Israel sought to impose surrender on the Arab nation, blackmail it, and dismember the Arab homeland.

TISHRIN adds: The continuation of this aggressive policy shows that Israel does not want peace with the Arabs and is not working to provide stability in this

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region. Instead, Israel is using the slogans of peace to swallow up the Arab homeland. This will never happen.

The paper concludes: Peace cannot be imposed on peoples through terrorism, siege, starvation, demolition of homes, and separation of secure villages. These Israeli practices are a declaration of war, and not peace. If Israel were truly serious about making peace with the Arabs, it would change its aggressive behavior, abandon its imperial illusions and Torah dreams, and return the usurped rights to their owners.

AL-BA'TH asserts in its editorial that Israel's intransigent and hard-line positions are the cause of the serious deadlock in the peace process. Israel was not satisfied with this. It made feverish attempts to derail and empty the peace process of its content by offering proposals and concepts that aim at undermining the process of a just and comprehensive peace and replacing it with partial, separate, and incomplete peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: The current situation in the Middle East requires serious, sincere, and responsible regional and international efforts to break the deadlock in the peace process and put it back on track to enable it to achieve its objectives. These efforts must be based on a sound prelude in order to lead to the required results, meaning that they should address the real reasons that obstruct the peace process and remedy these reasons once and for all. Any efforts that seek to circumvent these reasons and that ignore, wittingly or not, the main cause of the escalation of violence and counter-violence, will only exacerbate the crisis of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Whenever the peace process experiences a crisis, Syria takes the initiative to save this process. Syria called on the U.S. and Russian sponsors to return to the Madrid formula. This alone can end the crisis of the peace process and enable the people of the region to achieve their legitimate objective of a just and comprehensive peace.

In two separate commentaries, AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria's call for reembracing the principles of the Madrid peace conference is a call for reembracing the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. principle of establishing a just and comprehensive peace. Only such peace can provide security and stability for everybody.

In a commentary under the headline "Returning to Madrid," AL-THAWRAH says: More than four years of negotiations, good offices, and U.S. and other efforts could not make the peace process move a single step forward on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. It is only reasonable, and necessary, that the parties should return to Madrid and that the international peace conference should resume once again. This can save the peace process from collapse and create a proper atmosphere that helps remove obstacles and advance efforts that seek to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, which is sought by the peoples of the region and the world at large.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria is firmly committed to the Madrid objectives and frame of reference. Syria looks forward to peace, in its real and broad sense. Peace must preserve the rights, interests, and dignity of all parties and provide equitable and balanced security for all parties, without there being any need to grant any side privileges that may infringe on the sovereignty and dignity of the other side.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: By reasserting its adherence to the objective of peace as an irreversible strategic option, Syria reminds all parties of their moral and political responsibilities. Syria hopes those sides would champion the resolutions and laws of international legitimacy and address the reasons that led to the obstruction of peace efforts, instead of focusing on issues that emerged, in the first place, because of the absence of this peace.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Kabul Protests Interference by Pakistan

LD1003191996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 10 Mar 96

[Yuriy Kozmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, March 10, (Itar-Tass) — Kabul has called on Islamabad to stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

An official statement of the Kabul administration circulated in New Delhi today blasts the intention of Pakistan to delegate an expert team to southern Afghanistan in late March to assist the project to restore the Afghanistan-traversing stretch of a road link between Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

The statement says this move of Islamabad might further strain the Afghanistani-Pakistani relations.

Kabul also has called on the world community to pressure Islamabad to drop its plan to reestablish the highway and stop its backing to Afghanistan's opposition militia Taleban.

The Taleban is controlling a substantial area in which the highway runs.

Kabul had also issued a protest this week over Islamabad's plan to send a delegation to southwestern Afghanistan to negotiate with the Taleban a project to re-launch a leg of the highway traversing the Pakistani town of Chaman and Afghanistan's Kandahar which is the Taleban's stronghold.

That stretch of the highway is close to Turkmenistan, the former Soviet republic.

Pakistan bids to allocate up to three million dollars for the project to reconstruct the highway which had been seriously damaged in Afghanistan's many-year civil war.

Kabul had earlier warned that the highway reconstruction is Afghanistan's internal affair, and Islamabad should discuss the issue with the Kabul administration, Afghanistan's only legal authority.

The Taleban has no power to handle such issues, the statement says.

Afghanistan: Opposition Groups View Pakistan's Plan To Build Highway

LD0803143496 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 8 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, March 8, IRNA — Most of the Afghan jihad groups and personalities have objected [to] the Pakistan's decision on reconstructing a highway which connects Pakistan to the Central Asian state of Turkmenistan via Afghanistan.

The Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party), led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, said Thursday that the reconstruction work of the 880-km highway should be postponed till a powerful government is installed in Kabul. On the other hand, Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, leader of the Mahaz-e Melli-ye Eslami (National Islamic Front), said reconstruction of the highway at the present situation will not solve any problem.

The Taleban group, in what is seen as a shift in their position, said that the agreement on reconstruction of the highway will be officially recognized after a strong government takes power in Afghanistan.

Association of the legal experts and Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami (Movement for Islamic Revolution) also in separate statements have said that reconstruction of the highway by Islamabad is against the international laws and the 1994 Afghanistan-Pakistan agreement.

Islamabad has decided to reconstruct the 880-km highway, which passes through the five Taleban-controlled provinces in eastern Afghanistan, to boost its trade relations with Central Asian states.

Afghanistan: Northern Provinces Council Condemns Repair of Road

LD0903211696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a protest note the jihadi council of the northern provinces described the repair of the Spinboldak-Torghonday highway [by Pakistan] as a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. A related source told BAKHTAR that the leadership of the jihadi council of the northern provinces described the open and secret interferences of Pakistan as against accepted national and international norms. They called on the Pakistani Government to end such interferences immediately. The statement says that the repair of the highway has also exposed the real identity of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban. It described them as no more than a band of mercenaries.

Afghanistan: Iran Radio Commentary Views Pakistani Repair to Highway

LD1103221696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Spin Boldak-Torghonday Highway repair recently faced new opposition in Afghan political circles. A Kabul newspaper, DARIZ, yesterday reported that the four-party coalition, the

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High Coordination Council, is also against the implementation of this plan by Pakistan. Yesterday, the Afghan deputy foreign minister called for the immediate suspension of this plan. Regardless of the various reasons that every Afghan group presents in support of or opposing the repair of the Spin Boldak-Torghonday Highway, this plan deserves looking into realistically. While Rabbani's government and some of his opponents are opposing the repair because it passes through Taleban-controlled areas and, everything being taken account, this plan seems to be very important. In other words, the repair of this 880 km highway from the south to the northwest of Afghanistan will play an important role in the region's communications and is, therefore, worth working on. Scholars believe that security is a precondition for any cooperation in the region and the civil war in Afghanistan is a major obstacle in the way of investment in communications in the region. Economists believe that Pakistan's investment of $3 million dollars in this project faces many risks. The investment is not only facing legal problems due to the Afghan Government's opposition but the lack of security in the area also makes economic utilization of the highway impossible. Experts on Afghan affairs are of the opinion that the relative calm in Taleban-controlled areas cannot be trusted because the economic and political utilization of the highway by this group is a matter that only time will tell [as heard]. Despite all those obstacles, the economic capabilities and needs of the region have made the reconstruction of Afghanistan, especially its communication lines, the intermediate goal at least, of all countries in the region. This common goal is an appropriate reason for the expansion of regional political cooperation.

Afghanistan: Border Countries Asked To Use Influence on Warring Factions

LD1003205396 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Security Council has called on Afghanistan's neighbors to bring pressure to bear on all forces in the country to stop the fighting and to urge the peaceful solution of differences among the forces involved.

BAKHTAR reports that a Security Council session on Afghanistan held on 8 March passed a statement which says: The Security Council expresses concern about the continued civil war in Afghanistan and about the destruction and the killing of the civilians in the besieged city of Kabul, and is seriously dismayed by this. The Security Council has also asked Afghanistan's neighbors to bring pressure to bear on the involved groups in order that the ground be prepared for intra-Afghan dialogue for the solution of differences. Before this, the Security Council had also condemned Taleban's rocket attacks and aerial bombardment of Kabul.

Afghanistan: Party Official Lauds Iran's Efforts To Settle Crisis

LD0903200496 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bamian (Afghanistan), March 9, IRNA — Head of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] Council of Bamian Province, Karim Khalili, described the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to settle the Afghan crisis as "significant" and expressed gratitude in this respect.

Talking to Iran in this central Afghan city, Khalili said members of the Afghanistan Coordination Council are against war and fratricide in Afghanistan, because they believe that the only solution to the Afghan crisis is to open the doors of negotiation between leaders of various factions.

He called on Islamic countries, especially Iran, not to spare any effort to end the war and bloodshed in his country.

Khalili stressed that only the people of Afghanistan should decide on the fate of their country and make peace and an Islamic government possible in order to start the reconstruction of the land which for 19 years has seen only war and destruction.

He rejected the claims of certain segments of the foreign media on eruption of heavy clashes in Baghlan Province between the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar and General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, and said that a minor skirmish broke out between the local adherents of the two parties but was immediately stopped.

Khalili noted that at present the Baghlan region is calm.

Afghanistan: Kabul Denies Preparations for Major Assault on Herat

BK1203080096 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, March 12 (AFP) — The Afghan government Tuesday denied it was preparing a massive three-pronged assault on the key western city of Herat which it lost to the Taleban six months ago.

"We have proposed peace talks to all the opposition groups in Afghanistan and will not take any such military action unless there is no option left open to us," a defence ministry spokesman said.

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"We certainly do not confirm reports that we are planning an offensive in the southwest of the country," he added.

News reports in neighbouring Pakistan, which Kabul accuses of backing the Taleban militia encircling Kabul said Monday the government would launch a major attack on Herat from three directions, including from inside nearby Iran.

The report, quoting "informed sources", said the offensive from Iran would be led by former Herat governor Ismael Khan, once one of the top commanders of Kabul's military strongman, 'Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

At least 6,000 men were to attack Herat from the Afghan province of Ghor, according to the sources.

But defense officials here ruled out any possibility of a cross- border offensive on the Islamic warriors who have ruled Herat with an iron hand since capturing it from Ismael Khan in September.

"We, unlike the Taleban, would never attack any group inside Afghanistan from outside the country," he said in a reference to allegations that the militiamen have staged assaults from Pakistan.

Pakistan has denied that it backs the Taleban militarily or financially or that it has allowed its fighters to use Pakistan for military purposes.

Rumours of an attack by government forces to retake Herat, which was a major loss for President Borhanoddin Rabbani, on or around Thursday's 18th anniversary of a bloody uprising against the city's former communist leaders, have been circulating for many weeks.

About 20,000 people, including some Soviet advisors, are believed to have died in the revolt which was used as one of the former Soviet Union's pretexts for invading Afghanistan the following year.

Afghanistan: Kandahar Rocked by Explosions 7 Mar

LD1103152996 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Two big explosions have shaken the city of Kandahar. Quoting eyewitnesses, BAKHTAR reported that the explosions occurred at 0730 and 1100 last Thursday. The explosions caused heavy loss of life and material damage.

Afghanistan: Islamic Army Gunners Respond to Taleban Rocket Strikes

LD1103155296 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic army forces replied to the Taleban rocket attack in the southwest of Kabul last night. Quoting responsible sources, BAKHTAR reported that after the failure of their offensive two days ago, the Taleban fired rockets at Islamic army positions and on residential areas of Kabul. Islamic army artillery units responded, countering the enemy attack. So far no information has been received about the loss of life and material damage to the Taleban side.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: President-Initiated Dialogue To End Crisis 'Likely'

BK1003085196 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Political dialogue among the leading parties to resolve the current political impasse is likely to begin today at the initiative of President Abdur Rahman Biswas. President Biswas has already initiated discussions with different political parties for resolving the crisis in the larger interest of the people and the nation. He talked to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina over telephone yesterday and discussed the issue with her. The president also talked to BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] Joint Secretary General and Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, when he called on him at Banga Bhavan [president's house] yesterday evening. Letters of invitation were sent to the political parties and groups represented in the fifth parliament last night to sit for dialogue at 1100 in the morning [0500 GMT] today.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has given her consent to sit in a dialogue under the president's initiative to resolve the prevailing political impasse. In a statement issued in Dhaka last night, Sheikh Hasina said she already informed her opinion to the president and requested him to fix a time for discussion.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party has again urged the opposition parties to withdraw their programs. The call was given at a news briefing in Dhaka yesterday, held by BNP Joint Secretary General and Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

One hundred and twenty-one intellectuals, professionals, educationists, agriculturists, former diplomats and social personalities have welcomed the president's initiative to resolve the political crisis. In a joint statement

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in Dhaka yesterday, they urged the politicians, both in government and the opposition, to sit across the negotiating table for a peaceful solution. Expressing their concern at the deterioration of economy due to the prolonged political factors, they said the political programs have already shaken the economy and created serious problems for livelihood of common people.

Bangladesh: Zia Meets With President, Rejects Cancelling 15 Feb Polls

BK1103164296 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A 15-member delegation of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, BNP, met President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Banga Bhavan [president's house] this afternoon as a part of the ongoing efforts to achieve an acceptable solution to the country's present political crisis. The BNP delegation was led by the party chief, Begum Khaleda Zia. They reviewed various aspects of the present political situation. Members of the delegation included Dr. Badrudozza Chowdhury, M. Shamsul Islam, A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, Mirza Golam Hafiz, Barrister Abdul Salam Talukdar, M. Majedul Haq, M. Saifur Rahman, Oli Ahmed, Dr. Khondaker Musharif Hussain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Khondaker Dilawar Hussain, and Chowdhury Nasir Ahmed.

Briefing newsmen at Banga Bhavan after her meeting with the president, the BNP chairperson and prime minister, Begum Khalde Zia, said they have accepted the opposition's demand of nonparty government to take care of the next general elections and also accepted their demand for holding the next general elections in May next. The prime minister said the 15th February elections to the sixth Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] cannot be cancelled. Begum Zia said her party will introduce a bill on the nonparty government and help it pass in the first session of the sixth jatiya sangsad so that elections to the seventh jatiya sangsad could be held May next. She expressed the hope that through negotiations the political problems could be resolved. Replying to a question, Begum Zia said BNP is always in favor of negotiations. They are ready to sit across the negotiation table whenever the opposition will come.

On her way to and from Banga Bhavan, Begum Zia was greeted by tens of thousands of cheering people on both sides of the seven kilometer long route from the Prime Minister's office with raised slogans in favor of the BNP's stand. Tens of thousands of men, women, and children, and workers started slogans before [words indistinct].

Bangladesh: AFP Reports on Talks Between President, Opposition

BK1003132796 Hong Kong AFP in English 1319 GMT 10 Mar 96

[Report by Nadeem Qadir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, March 10 (AFP) — Bangladesh opposition leaders on Sunday urged President Abdur Rahman Biswas to form a special government by decree to end the country's political crisis.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, head of the Awami League, told the head of state that the opposition's "non-cooperation" campaign would continue until he took steps to force Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to resign and hold fresh elections.

Wajed told reporters after her more than hour-long meeting at the Bangabhaban presidential palace that only Biswas could "save the nation now from the crisis as constitutionally he holds all powers now."

She said "we advised the president to set up the neutral caretaker government to oversee the next general elections by presidential decree."

She also wanted the February 15 parliamentary elections annulled and all political parties to jointly decide who would be premier.

Wajed and 10 senior officials from her party went to the presidential palace in a pedicab. They refused an offer of a presidential car because of the non-cooperation campaign which prohibits the use of motorized transport.

The president, she said, promised to look into the demands and talk to the chief election commissioner about on the February 15 voting which was boycotted by the opposition and labelled as "seriously flawed" by independent observers.

The talks were put back nearly two-and-half-hours from their morning start after Wajed asked Biswas to arrange the release of senior opposition leaders, jailed in last month's government crackdown.

Ahead of the talks, Biswas joined brief prayers for those killed during the two-year opposition campaign, League officials said.

There was no immediate comment from the president's office.

Official sources said those arrested under the tough Special Powers Act of 1974 without specific charges have been ordered released and bail was being arranged for others held on specific charges.

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The official BSS news agency said Anwar Hossain Manju, secretary general of the opposition Jatiya Party, which was the second party to hold talks with Biswas, was freed Sunday.

The fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami and leftwing Workers Party had meetings with the President Sunday. The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party is scheduled to meet him Monday.

Thousands of police were deployed around the palace and the route Wajed took. Thousands of slogan-chanting supporters accompanied her.

The opposition campaign ensured that shops, businesses and schools remained shut. Pedicabs were the only vehicles on the streets.

"I am very proud and happy today," said pedicab driver Abdul Malek, 34, who carried Wajed back and forth from the palace.

The opposition has been campaigning for elections under a neutral caretaker government since March 1994. Last year they demanded Zia's resignation.

The initiative by Biswas came after Wajed threatened to form a caretaker government on Sunday and after beleaguered Zia requested him to start the talks.

Several hundred reporters and photographers crowded outside the palace in scorching sun with everyone hoping they were witnessing the last throes of the two@year-old opposition campaign.

More than 100 people died during the recent election campaign.

Wajed alleged that the elections were "null and void" because voting to 300 seats could not be completed in the constitutionally stipulated time limit, and that Zia was not an MP as she violated the constitution during oath-taking this month. The government maintains elections and all other steps were legal.

Bangladesh: Businesses Want Annulment of Elections

BK1103154996 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, March 11 (AFP) — Bangladesh's business community on Monday demanded the annulment of controversial elections held February 15, appearing to back opposition demands, as the country continued in the grip of a national strike.

Salman Rahman, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), announced after several hours of debate among members that "it was not an election and people have rejected it...fresh elections must be held under a neutral caretaker government," reports said.

About 200 members of the FBCCI, the main body of the business community, participated in the emergency meeting.

Rahman said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government would be held responsible for further losses to the economy.

Bangladesh is in the third day of a national strike called by the opposition, and is entering the third year of political stalemate following the walkout in March 1994 and resignation in December the same year of the opposition parties from parliament.

The business group's announcement came soon after Zia rejected demands for annulling the February 15 elections, boycotted by the opposition and described as "seriously flawed" by independent observers.

"How is it (annulling the elections) possible...this is not possible as we will need this parliament to amend the constitution," she told reporters soon after talks with President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

The opposition told Biswas in talks Sunday that the "non-cooperation" campaign or nationwide shutdown, in its third day Monday, would continue unless their demands were met.

Bangladesh: Zia Rejects Demands To Annul Elections; Clashes Continue

BK1103135096 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Report by Nadeem Qadir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, March 11 (AFP) — Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Monday rejected one of the opposition's principle demands, saying she would not annul February 15 general elections and wanted to solve the crisis through talks.

"How is it (annulling the elections) possible...this is not possible as we will need this parliament to amend the constitution," she told reporters soon after talks with President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Speaking at the gate of the Bangabhaban presidential palace Zia said her ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had "good talks" with the president and the party's points were explained to him, including its acceptance of fresh elections next May under a "non-party" administration.

Accompanied by 15 of her senior party leaders, Zia had an hour-long meeting with Biswas and then spent almost

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another hour in the presidential palace, but the reason was not immediately known.

She said her party was ready to attend all-party talks proposed by the president if her rivals came, as "we have always said we believe in solving the problem through talks."

There was no immediate comment from the presidential palace.

The opposition has been campaigning for elections under a neutral caretaker government since March 1994. The next year they demanded Zia's resignation and that February 15 elections, boycotted by the opposition and described as "seriously flawed," be annulled.

Main opposition Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed has warned that the "non-cooperation" or nation-wide shutdown, in its third day Monday, would continue until Biswas took steps to meet their demands.

Stringent security measures were taken along the six-mile (10-kilometer) route and around the palace as opposition activists blasted home-made bombs and clashed with police in nearby Gulistan and Paltan areas, injuring 20, amid the shutdown.

Police used tear gas and truncheons to disperse the protestors.

Police reported fierce clashes in suburban Mirpua and several other parts of the paralysed capital.

Earlier, as Zia drove from her residence to the palace thousands of supporters formed human shields in some parts of the route.

The supporters, waving placards with Zia's picture, showered flower petals on her silver Nissan Patrol jeep and chanted slogans "Zia we are with you."

Biswas, also a BNP member, on Sunday held a series of similar talks with major opposition groups and invited the BNP Monday in a bid to end Bangladesh's two-year-long political crisis.

Analysts said although the talks paved the way for a settlement it was unlikely a compromise would be reached on the elections.

Wajed has also asked Biswas to form immediately a neutral caret Government by presidential decree.

In suburban Mirpur area riot police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles opened fire to disperse protestors leaving some 40 injured, including several security personnel, in the day-long clashes with opposition demonstrators, police and witnesses said.

At least 12 more were injured in separate incidents in Dhaka and one pedicab driver was accidentally crushed to death Monday as a speeding bus driven by suspected pro-government supporters attempted to break the opposition's call for a nationwide shutdown, witnesses said.

The streets of Dhaka were crowded with pedicabs, the only mode of transportation, as opposition activists staged marches and rallies shouting anti-government slogans.

Shops, businesses, schools and private offices were shut, and officials said courts were not operating as most lawyers were absent. Chittagong port was also not operating.

THE INDEPENDENT daily said two demonstrators injured earlier in clashes with paramilitary forces died of bullet wounds Sunday in Sirajganj district, in western Bangladesh.

More than 100 people, mostly during the past six weeks, have died during the two-year campaign.

Bangladesh: Opposition Again Blames Zia for Crisis; Strike Continues

BK1203051996 Hong Kong AFP in English 0501 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA March 12 (AFP) — Bangladesh's main opposition leader Tuesday blamed Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for standing in the way of efforts to end a two-year-old political standoff.

"Zia by putting up preconditions is causing obstruction to a solution of the crisis," Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the main opposition Awami League said in a statement.

Wajed was responding to Zia's refusal to annul the results of general elections on February 15 which the opposition boycotted.

She accused Zia of trying to reconstitute what she called the "illegal" Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government after the "farcical" election, warning that such action could delay efforts by President Abdur Rahman Biswas to start all-party talks to end the crisis.

An opposition-called "non-cooperation" campaign meanwhile kept most businesses in Dhaka and other cities shut.

Zia, after a meeting Monday with Biswas, rejected the opposition's demand to annul the polls, saying: "This is not possible as we will need this parliament to amend the constitution" to accommodate the opposition's earlier demand to form a neutral caretaker government to oversee future elections.

Biswas, Bangladesh's titular head of state, stepped into the political crisis Friday after Zia's surprise acceptance

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of an opposition demand that he initiate talks between the country's factions.

But political observers said they feared expectations for a negotiated settlement were fading.

The opposition has been campaigning since March 1994 for elections under a neutral caretaker administration, arguing that fair polls were impossible under Zia's government.

India

India: Parliamentary Committee Urges Agni Missile Production

BK1203045596 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Mar 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The multi-member parliamentary standing committee on Defence has urged the government to take an expeditious decision for serial production of the indigenously-developed Agni intermediate range ballistic missile for induction into the Indian armed forces.

The recommendation by the standing committee figures prominently in a 62-page report on 'Defence policy, planning and management' tabled in the Lok Sabha on Friday [8 March].

The demand has been made "in view of the change in the strategic environment and developments of military significance in the neighbourhood bearing on the security of the nation".

India has till now test-fired three Agni missiles — two successfully but without any warheads. The Agni project has since been capped.

The committee has also urged the government to accord priority to modernisation and upgradation of weapon systems and also chalk out a phased induction programme of modern defence equipment aiming at qualitative improvement of offensive capabilities and maintaining combat effectiveness of the armed forces.

It maybe pointed out here that let alone adding any major weapon system, India has been unable to carry out any modernisation or upgradation of its existing defence inventory since the beginning of this decade.

"...due to resource crunch during the past several years, defence preparedness is not receiving the attention it deserves. Cuts in the budget allocation have hampered modernisation of the Indian armed forces. As a result India could not keep pace with hostile neighbours in acquiring and upgrading weaponry...", the report observes.

While analysing in detail India's defence policy and planning, rather lack of it, the Committee has suggested that the government should examine the feasibility of preparing a formal National Defence Policy document for being placed before the Parliament. This is because there is no formal written document called India's national defence policy which makes it difficult for any such policy to be analysed and modified.

The committee has also urged that the government should urgently come up with a formal institutional mechanism to monitor the state of defence preparedness to oversee progress on all defence programmes as also help in achieving speedy decision-making on crucial issues affecting national security.

The committee has also noted that apart from the problem of securing spare parts for defence equipment of Soviet origin, there are "various other technology control regimes that are being established in the international system". The committee has thus urged that not only should the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) double its efforts to indigenise equipment of Soviet origin, but also maximise self-reliance on defence technology, particularly weapons development.

India: Pakistan's 'Policy of Doublespeak' on Nuclear Issue Viewed

BK1203112696 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Mar 96

[Commentary by K.G. Joglekar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over the years, Pakistan has perfected the art of creating confusion about its intentions by sending contradictory signals. In the late 1940's, they denied any involvement in Kashmir till it became impossible to do so. A few years ago, Pakistan denied that it had bought M-11 missiles from China and has, thus, violated the Missile Technology Control Regime. Washington thought otherwise and imposed sanctions against both countries. In no other field does their policy of doublespeak manifest itself so blatantly as in the field of nuclear technology. During the past decades, statements emanating from Islamabad on Pakistan's nuclear program has had only one aim: to create confusion and to go ahead quietly and systematically for acquiring the technology and the material for making a nuclear bomb. Thus, a former prime minister said sometime ago that Pakistan had already made the nuclear bomb only to be immediately contradicted by the prime minister in office.

Earlier this month, THE WASHINGTON POST quoting American Government sources reported that Pakistan

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is planning to conduct an underground nuclear test in Balochistan. It may be recalled that some time ago an American newspaper had carried a similar report about India also. That report had been immediately denied by India. So did Pakistan. It [India] also felt that such reports planted by newspapers by American officials were part of an orchestrated media campaign by Washington. This is correct and Pakistan should have also realized that the campaign is intended to bring pressure on both India and Pakistan to sign the nuclear ban treaty. Unfortunately, Pakistan did not see the threat to relations between the two countries from such inspired leaks by American officials. The Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said in the context of the report that Pakistan would never go for a nuclear test unless, as she put it, there was a threat to the survival and security of the country. Ms. Bhutto added that at present she did not think there was any threat to Pakistan's security. The question naturally arises that where can there be a threat to Pakistan.

India has time and again said that it is prepared to solve all problems with Pakistan through bilateral talks. This is not merely good neighborliness. India realizes that a stable Pakistan is necessary for peace in the subcontinent. That is why even when she had the chance after her victory in the Bangladesh war, India did nothing against West Pakistan. It would have been proper for Pakistan to take note of India's declaration and to come to the conference table. Even if she did not do so immediately, she should see the danger to relations between the two countries because of inspired leaks in American newspapers. Unfortunately, Ms. Bhutto did not realize this. While declaring that Pakistan would never carry out a nuclear test, she added the derider about a threat to Pakistan's survival and security. The question arises: where from does she perceive the threat and who is to decide that this threat is real? A look at the political picture of South Asia makes it clear that since there is no threat, nor is there a threat likely to arise in Pakistan in the near future. The conclusion is, therefore, inevitable that in keeping with its policy of doublespeak, Pakistan is keeping its options open in the name of a threat to her security. Meanwhile, Pakistan is quietly going ahead with its shopping rounds for [word indistinct] legally or illegally for technology and materials for making the nuclear bomb. It may be 5,000 ring magnets from China for enrichment of uranium, sophisticated laser measuring equipment from a European consortium, valves for nuclear weapons from France, or solid state lasers from Hungary. The intention is to acquire everything for making bombs. Pakistan's diplomats have been expelled from some countries for this clandestine activity.

India for one never had any doubts about Pakistan's real intentions. The question, however, arises: how long will the United States, which claims to be the champion of nuclear nonproliferation, keep quiet abou: this open breach by its surrogate — Pakistan?

India: Article Views New Pakistani Nuclear Reactor

BK1203044396 Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Mar 96 p 11

[Article by C. Raja Mohan: "Plutonium Reactor May Give Pak. a Leverage"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The reports that Pakistan is ready to begin the operation of a reactor, which may significantly boost Islamabad's nuclear weapon capabilities, can further undermine the credibility of the global non—proliferation regime and the American ability to constrain Pakistan's nuclear programme. By threatening to initiate the production of unsafe guarded plutonium, Pakistan may have acquired important diplomatic leverages in its nuclear disputes with the United States.

THE DAWN, a leading Pakistani newspaper, reported last week that the 50-MW [megawatt] reactor being built at Khushab in the Punjab is now all set for initial fuelling operations and is awaiting a final nod from the political masters in Islamabad. The Khushab reactor, to be fuelled by natural uranium and moderated by heavy water, is expected to give Pakistan access for the first time to unsafe guarded plutonium that can be used in nuclear weapons.

The existence of the Khushab reactor, secret work on which had apparently begun in the 1980s came to light only recently. Western nuclear trade sources had revealed the progress on the Khushab reactor in late 1994. During the Pakistan Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to the U.S. in April 1995, the U.S. media had reported that the construction of the Khushab reactor had figured prominently in the negotiations between the U.S. and Pakistan.

Beijing Role Comes to Light

Although Pakistan claims that the Khushab reactor is entirely an indigenous effort, American reports point to substantive Chinese assistance to the project. American non-proliferation experts believe that the Chinese help to the reactor may amount to a serious violation of Beijing's solemn commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] not to assist other nations in acquiring nuclear weapons and to ensure that any transfer of nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes are under international safeguards.

As Pakistan gets ready to activate the Khushab reactor, the concerns in the U.S. about Beijing's compliance

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with its NPT obligations are likely to mount. The recent reports about the Chinese sale of ring magnets to Pakistan that could be used in the making of highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons have already generated difficulties in U.S. relations with both China and Pakistan.

In the wake of the ring magnet transfer, the Clinton Administration is reported to he considering sanctions under its domestic non-proliferation law against Beijing and Islamabad. But Washington is delaying a formal determination on the ring magnet transfer as it pursues its bilateral nuclear dialogue with China and Pakistan. The operation of the Khushab reactor by Pakistan is likely to further strain the credibility of the NPT regime, and the reveal Washington's inability to make China abide by its international commitments.

The Khushab reactor is expected to give Pakistan the capability to expand the size and sophistication of its current nuclear arsenal, estimated to be around nine to ten nuclear weapons. The current Pakistani nuclear weapons are based on enriched uranium. By reprocessing the spent fuel from the Khushab reactor, Pakistan will acquire plutonium that can be used in building more compact nuclear weapons.

The U.S. has apparently been pressing Pakistan to stop the construction of the reactor or at least place it under international safeguards. Pakistan has resisted such proposals by demanding some matching actions from India. Despite the Khushab reactor, the Clinton Administration went ahead in late 1995 with the decision to give a one-time waiver, under the so called Hank Brown Amendment, to the American non-proliferation law applicable to Pakistan and release a package of arms worth $368 millions.

Hints From Washington

In the wake of the ring magnet transfer, there have been hints from Washington that it could delay the implementation of the Brown Amendment unless there were unspecified nuclear assurances from Pakistan. Some American analysts say that the Clinton administration had built a consensus behind the Brown Amendment with the clear understanding that Pakistan will not alter the nuclear status quo. Pakistan's acquisition of ring magnets from China to boost its uranium enrichment programme had already shattered this assumption. A decision by Islamabad to operate the Khushab reactor will make a mockery of the American non-proliferation policy towards Pakistan.

The threat by Pakistan to operate the Khushab reactor could be part of an intense political bargaining that is going on between Washington and Islamabad. Recent high-level bilateral exchanges included the visit to Pakistan by the U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser, Mr. Sandy Berger, and more recently by the President Mr. Clinton's special envoy on arms control, Mr Thomas Graham. India needs to carefully watch the U.S.-Pak nuclear bargaining, but it should have no illusions that Washington can put an end to the enduring Sino-Pak nuclear cooperation or limit Pakistan's nuclear capabilities. In the end, New Delhi will have to rely on its own resources to defend its security interests.

India: Article Views Pakistani Capabilities

BK1203090896 Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi 9 Mar 96 p 6

[Article by Kuldip Talwar: "Pakistan Is Augmenting its Military Might"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Skirmishes have been continuing nonstop for the last two months, especially since 26 January. That day, at the instigation of Pakistan's ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] spy agency, Pakistani troops or a mujahideen group fired rockets at a mosque in Kahuta in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir while prayers were being said. Hardly a day passes when the rival forces deployed on both sides of the border do not exchange heavy fire. The Pakistani Government blamed Indian forces for firing the rockets at the Kahuta mosque. Meanwhile, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto declared that if necessary Pakistan would match the onslaughts of India, its hostile neighbor, on every front. In other words, Pakistan is quite capable of giving India a fitting reply and teaching it a lesson it will never forget. Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali, in a 20 February statement in Islamabad, asserted that Pakistan is quite capable of facing the nuclear threat posed by India's missiles. While issuing such provocative statements, the Pakistani leadership forgets that war can make one shed tears of blood but cannot wipe tears from the eye; these rockets and bombs can kill people but they cannot destroy sentiments of love and affection and other deep human relations.

The Causes of the Skirmishes

It is believed that Pakistan is throwing these aggressive tantrums at the instigation of the United States. The United States is angry with India because India does not agree with the agenda of the international conference likely to be held in April to settle the nuclear issue. The United States is having Pakistan harass India in order to browbeat us.

Another reason for these skirmishes is Benazir's attempt to distract her people's attention from the internal troubles created by her own stubborn and vindictive

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nature. The Karachi problem is becoming more grave with the passage of time. Benazir is also facing international pressure on this problem because the genocide of the Muhajirs in Karachi is causing international alarm. The opposition has started a "remove Benazir campaign" that is becoming increasingly popular in Benazir's own province, Sindh, and is causing not only a political crisis for Benazir but also severe mental anguish on a personal level. This is the reason she wants to divert her people's attention by stoking the fires of the Kashmir issue.

In raising the specter of the alleged inhuman behavior of Indian forces in Kashmir, she wants to win the sympathy of other countries in order to procure deadly arms from them. She has already partially succeeded in her mission; weapons and other war material from the Untied States, France, and China have either reached Pakistan or are in the pipeline.

Now, when the Indian Government is making preparations to initiate the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir and hold elections there, the Benazir government of Pakistan is leaving no stone unturned to create unrest in the region by engineering disruptive activities and mass murders. Pakistan does not want the restoration of democracy in Kashmir as this would surely defeat all its designs.

Benazir is getting active support from leading journalists, newspapers, Islamic fundamentalists, retired Army generals, and the leaders of Pakistan's parliamentary committees in raising the war frenzy against India. After the attack on the Kahuta mosque, the Pakistan ruling party and opposition both intensified their efforts to incite their people against India.

General Ansari, a retired Pakistani Army official, categorically stated that this Indian attack was an open challenge to Pakistan's valor, and if Pakistan bowed down it would be a big psychological defeat. General Ghulam Omar said there is no need for Pakistan to succumb to Indian threats as Pakistan's forces are powerful enough to repulse any Indian attack. Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami and chairman of the Pakistani National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committees, declared that India's rocket attack was tantamount to India openly declaring war on Pakistan. Hafiz Hussain Ahmad and Maulana Fazlur Rahman believe Pakistan's security is threatened by India and advise that this attack should be avenged immediately. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the National Assembly's Kashmir Committee, advised the Pakistani Government to deploy missiles along the border and conduct a nuclear blast to pulverize India. Kazi Hussain Ahmad, leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami, expressed apprehension that if Pakistan backed down on the Kashmir issue, it would expedite the disintegration of the whole country.

All these utterances were accentuated by a disinformation campaign to the effect that India, having conducted its first nuclear test in 1974, is now preparing to conduct another nuclear test. As a matter of fact, all these Pakistani leaders became nervous at seeing India successfully conduct the test flight of its Prithvi missile. They fear that this unerring missile is Pakistan-specific. What is self-contradictory in Pakistan's attitude is that it is deliberately creating a war frenzy against India by inciting its people but simultaneously pretending to start a meaningful dialogue with India to settle various issues through peaceful negotiations.

Receiving Nuclear Weapons

Pakistan has tremendously augmented its nuclear capability and has equipped its forces with the latest weapons, missiles, and nuclear bombs. It is not as weak as it was when it fought three wars against India. There is no doubt that Pakistan tasted bitter defeat in all three armed confrontations, but it is also true that in these wars there were times when a small lapse on our part would have landed us in great trouble. We also passed through a phase of severe crisis.

Taking the lessons of its bitter defeat by India in three wars, Pakistan has changed its strategy. It is not fighting a direct war in Kashmir, but is using other shoulders to fire its guns at India. It is also secretly dumping illegal arms in India for use by its agents and quislings. The latest examples are the air dropping of weapons in India's Purulia District; the recovery of 42 kg of RDX in Jammu by Indian security forces; and the recent recovery of a large cache of firearms in the very heart of India's capital, Delhi. These cases indicate how seriously Pakistan is fighting a proxy war with India.

Pakistan has also received and deployed M-11 ballistic missiles from China. These missiles can hit any target, even Delhi or Bombay. Openly flouting U.S. nuclear nonproliferation law, Pakistan has also received 5,000 ring magnets from China. The U.S. CIA spy agency has confirmed this. Pakistan will use these ring magnets to enrich the uranium required to produce nuclear weapons, although it still maintains that it has capped its nuclear program. If it has really shelved its nuclear program, why did it buy these ring magnets? The destination of these ring magnets also revealed that apart from Pakistan's nuclear plant in Kahuta, it has another nuclear reactor in Golbora, close to Islamabad. This Golbora plant is used to produce weapons-grade uranium. The Kahuta plant was not working as full capacity due to a paucity of parts, but it is now

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working day and night. Weapons-grade uranium is being produced there. According to another unconfirmed report, Pakistan has received a tested uranium bomb from China. According to a CIA report, the bomb was tested in the presence of senior officials of the Pakistani Army.

China has been giving all kinds of assistance to Pakistan's nuclear program since its inception in 1980, and now our confidence that we have a better army than Pakistan might land us in the soup at any time. We should not underestimate Pakistan's military might. Hence it is all the more necessary for the Indian Government to remain alert to Pakistan's designs and keep a vigilant eye on the activities of the Pakistani spy agency, which seems to be spreading its dragnet all over India. There is hardly any big city in India that does not have a hideout for Pakistani agents. What is unfortunate is that there is no dearth of quislings in our country to help these Pakistani agents by all means.

India: Janata Dal, Leftist Parties Demand Government Resignation

BK1103155596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leaders of the Janata Dal and left parties in Parliament have demanded that the government should resign in view of corruption charges against some ministers in the hawala [illegal money transfer] case. In a memorandum submitted to the president, Dr. Shankara Dayal Sharma, today they alleged that no one is now accountable to Parliament regarding the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] investigations into the hawala case. They said this has created a constitutional crisis and appealed to the president to intervene in this matter.

India: Parliament Extends President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh

BK1203045896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliament has approved the extension of president's rule in Uttar Pradesh for a further period of six months from the 18th of next month. A statutory resolution in this regard was approved by the Lok Sabha yesterday. The Rajya Sabha has already passed it.

Replying to a brief debate on the resolution, the minister of state for home, Syed Sibte Razi, said that assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh will be held after the Lok Sabha polls. Earlier participating in the debate, the opposition members demanded that the assembly elections in the state be held along with the Lok Sabha polls.

Iran

Iran: Officials for Reconstruction Claim Lead in Tehran

LD1003105096 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — The early results of the votes counted in Tehran constituency indicate the candidates supported by the group, Kargozaran-e Sazandegi [Officials for Reconstruction], are leading, said a member of the group.

Kargozaran-e Sazandegi, is made up of a group of senior government officials including four vice-presidents.

The source told IRNA here Sunday morning that early estimates of the votes cast in Tehran constituency, in the Friday elections for the 270-seat Majlis, show that the candidates supported by the group are ahead of others and enjoy a sigificant majority. Tehran with 30 seats has the largest number of seats in the Majlis.

"Therefore, one can predict that the fifth Majlis will have a significant role in continuing construction programs and plans in the country," he said.

The member of the Kargozaran lauded the enthusiastic and massive turnout of the electorates in the elections and said this is the sign of commitment of the Iranian nation and their interest in future of the country.

Iran: Nateq-Nuri Leads First 10 in Tehran List

LD1103142196 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — According to the latest results announced until 14:00 hours local time here Monday, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri is taking the lead among other contenders from Tehran by acquiring 152,013 votes out of a total of 439,608 ballots cast in the March 8 Majles elections. The votes were cast in 758 constituencies in Tehran and its suburbs of Rey, Shemiranat and Eslamshahr.

According to the results, Ms. Fa'ezeh Hashemi-Bahramani ranks second after Nateq-Nuri with 150,983 votes.

Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abu Torabi-Fard with 138,230 votes, 'Abbas Sheybani with 134,361, Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Musavi-Hoseyni with 113,696, Ms. Marzieh Vahid-Dastjerdi with 107,280, Mohsen Mojtahed- Shabestari

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with 100,979, Hassan Rowhani with 98,941, Mohammad Reza Bahonar with 98,434 and Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi with 94,609 votes take third to the tenth places respectively.

Iran: Nateq-Nuri, Fa'ezeh Hashemi Still Lead in Tehran

LD1203112196 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri is the leading candidate in Tehran constituency based on the votes counted till 8:00 am Tuesday, followed by Ms. Fa'ezeh Hashemi.

According to the latest reports, Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri is leading among more than 400 contenders, with 321,767 votes out of 906,171 ballots counted so far. Meanwhile, Ms. Fa'ezeh Hashemi maintainas the second place with 314,025 votes.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Abu-Torabi-Fard with 286,584 votes, 'Abbas Sheybani with 267,524, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Musavi- Hoseyni with 242,725, Ms. Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi with 218,408, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestari with 205,975, Hojjat ol- Eslam Hasan Rowhani with 201,495, Mohammad Reza Bahonar with 200,634, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi with 194,776 votes are eight other candidates with most of the votes in Tehran constituency, respectively.

So far only Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri and Ms. Hashemi have secured the necessary number of votes to allow them enter the 270- seat Majles. Candidates who fail to secure the necessary votes will have to compete in a run-off elections, scheduled for April 20, 1996.

The fifth Majles will be officially inaugurated on April 28, 1996. Ballot counting continues in Tehran constituency which has 30 seats in the Majles and the final results are expected latest by tomorrow.

Iran: Reyshahri's Group Issues Second Statement on Elections

NC1003192296 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Feb 96 p 3

["Text" of the second statement by the Society to Defend the Values of the Islamic Revolution, dated 24 February 1996; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] We thank God almighty that the alert and responsible people who are enamored with the great Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and especially the immense and valuable assets of the Islamic Revolution—the disabled, the prisoners of war, the great families of the martyrs, as well as the genuine personalities and groups—welcomed our first step and responded to our call to defend the values of the Islamic Revolution.

We modestly express thanks to you, the dear people. This displays your political maturity and the depth that the roots of the idea of the revolution have sunk in Islamic society.

Undoubtedly, all this sincere support is a priceless asset and will multiply the responsibilities on the shoulders of this movement which—by relying on God almighty and under the aegis of the lofty ideas of the late Imam, may his soul be sanctified, and the sagacious directives of the dear leader of the revolution, may his shadow be lengthened—calls on all the forces that are devoted to the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution to achieve the new civilization of Islam.

Now, on the eve of publishing the names of the candidates for the fifth term Majles elections, we consider it necessary to inform the noble nation of a few points:

1. Since basically the movement of the Islamic Revolution and the victory of the revolution and the establishment of the system and its sacred institutions have always relied on the presence of the responsible masses, an ideal Majles too can be achieved with the zealous and alert participation of the people. We believe that the all-embracing presence of all strata in the elections is necessary, but not enough, and that it is necessary to find competent people on the basis of genuine criteria and values to carry out religious and national duties.

2. Each person should consider himself to be responsible vis-a- vis God almighty for the vote that he casts and to carefully heed the consequences of his choice. The fate of society and the system depends on your choice. Therefore, the people should cast their votes carefully and with sensitivity.

3. As stated in the first statement as well, an ideal Majles in our opinion is a Majles that will guarantee the inherent features of the Islamic system, that is religion—the founding principles of Islamic society, struggle against arrogance, love for freedom, quest for justice, negating the rule of capitalism, and economic independence in national production, support for the oppressed, and reliance on basiji thoughts and ideas.

4. Under the current conditions, our society needs a Majles which will heed the lofty aspirations of the revolution and correctly and alertly understand conditions, and—by seeking the roots of obstacles—will choose the most suitable methods to advance the

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objectives of the system forward and will strive to solve the current problems of the country and will present these methods in the form of law to the executive officials.

5. In our opinion, a worthy deputy of an ideal Majles should have the following characteristics:

A. Moral salvation, a religious and revolutionary commitment and approach, a good record of performance and of simple living, a person who is not affected by threats and corruption and is not lured by worldly issues, and a person who will consider his position as a deputy only as a vital responsibility in implementing religious duties.

This type of competent person will put the systems' interests before his own. He will not partake in demagogic campaigning and will not consider himself to owe to any individual or specific strata, but the hezbollahi ummah.

B. As stated by the dear leader of the Islamic Revolution, a good deputy is a person who is revolutionary, pious, and brave, as well as a person who is capable of telling who the enemy is and seizing opportunities, a person who is a true follower of the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, and who walks in his line. You should send someone to the Majles who understands what His Eminence the Imam said, what he wanted, and what enraged him.

C. In view of the current sensitive conditions in the revolution, our Majles needs deputies who have the necessary scientific capabilities and ideas and are experienced in, at least, one field which is useful in order to make the revolution advance. Farsightedness and refrainment from trivial, factional, and insignificant approaches are among the most important characteristics of a deputy.

D. A competent deputy should be able to make use of political and social alertness and deeply heed the sinister and complicated objectives of the enemies of the revolution, especially the satanic spite of the arrogant powers headed by world-devouring America, and have a firm belief in confronting the enemy's cultural onslaught. In short, he should be able to bravely defend the ideological borders of the revolution vis-a-vis the poisonous and pseudo- cultural waves. These are among the major characteristics of a good deputy.

E. Today and always our Majles needs deputies who consider themselves to be indebted to the selflessness of the millions of people and of the deceased Imam, may his soul be sanctified, and to be devoted to the directives of the supreme jurisconsult which ensures the continuation of the Islamic Revolution's values and the safeguarding of the independence and freedom of our country.

Undoubtedly such a deputy will always be a true supporter of the oppressed and will struggle against the rule of capitalism, against deviation from values, and against flexibility vis-a-vis the enemy and will not fear the empty threats by arrogance.

O noble Iranian people:

We hope that in the near future we will be able to inform you, the dear ummah, of the names of the candidates we propose and in the selection of which we have tried to take the above-mentioned criteria into consideration.

[Dated] 5 Esfand 1374 [24 February 1996]

[Signed] Mohammadi-Reyshahri.

Iran: Reyshahri on Reasons for Forming 'Sodevir'

LD0903185496 Tehran SOBH in Persian 5 Mar 96 p 8-9

[Interview with Mohammad Reyshahri, former Iranian intelligence minister, by SOBH correspondent; place and date not given; under the rubric: "The Bond Between Religion and Politics: Guardianship of the Jurisconsult; Under Attack and Worthy of Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] SOBH: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. You have spoken about the aims and motives for forming the "Society for the Defense of the Values of Islamic Revolution" [Sodevir]. But to begin this discussion could you again point out the reasons for forming "Sodevir"?

Reyshahri: In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. As I have said before, "Sodevir" has been formed to defend the values of the Islamic revolution and to guard its achievements. The esteemed leader of the revolution has said in one of his speeches that political groups and trends usually put only one aim or ideal on their agenda. The main aim of "Sodevir" is to be free from this condition and to become mindful of all the values of the revolution. There are those who focus on the development and progress of the country. There are groups and movements that emphasize [social] justice. There are those who see the defense of a particular guild or [social] stratum as their mission. But we believe that all these aims must be pursued through the defense of values.

Naturally, it is not possible to be concerned with values without paying attention to the issues of development and progress. In other words, it is not possible to maintain the values without developing the country, implementing social justice, and fighting cultural onslaught. "Sodevir" intends to achieve all these goals by maintaining the values of the revolution. This is the main reason for forming "Sodevir".

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SOBH: Then this question comes up: Don't the other groups also believe in these values? They also claim to be implementing these values, but only giving priority to one of the goals. For instance, those who give priority to development say that if the country fails to develop while we are busy seeking social justice, we will only be distributing poverty, and therefore development has priority. But how do you precisely define the defense of the values?

Reyshahri: There is no doubt that others also want to implement these values. But the issue is whether we should achieve these values through attaining goals such as development or achieve the goals through defending the values. We believe that if we defend the values we will achieve the other goals, including development. But the pursuit of development will not lead to the realization of the values. As the [proverb] says: "If you get 100, you will also have the 90." In other words if we are able to keep our values we will also achieve development and justice.

It has been said in the [Islamic] traditions that if you are a true believer others will submit to you. It does not say that if you want to have a comprehensive political, economical, and military sovereignty, you should first make others submit and then seek Godly values. On the contrary, it says that you must first become a true believer so that others submit to you. Here values are fundamental. If they are defended, the other goals of the Islamic revolution will be realized.

Furthermore, issues such as development are also important for people who have no [religious] beliefs and therefore, these issues cannot to be taken to be the main axis. The Abbassid Caliph, Motevakel, who is well known in history for his crimes, particularly his brutal treatment of Muslims and the Shiite, and who even banned the pilgrimage to the shrine of Imam Hoseyn, was a supporter of construction and development. During his time many projects were implemented in Islamic society. I do not want to insult others or to question the motivation of those who support development with my statements. But I say that the fundamentals are the values and not those goals that are important to people of various persuasions. We believe that "Sodevir" must defend these values and defend them seriously so that other goals such as construction, [social] justice, the struggle against the cultural onslaught, and others may be achieved.

SOBH: Action by "Sodevir" begs this question: Why now? Was it a positive action based on previous record or was it reactive, for instance, to the activities of the group that have become known as the "Servants of Construction"? The reason for this question is that "Sodevir" has not put forward any independent candidates in Tehran or in the other cities. Really, why now?

Reyshahri: All political activity must start at some point and it is always possible to ask why now. If we had started the same activity last year the question could have been asked. The truth of the matter is that I had felt the need for a political organization to defend the values. A group of friends also emphasized the need. But I did not take any action for a number of reasons.

First, from a psychological and personal point of view I am more a cultural type than a political one. If I find some time I spend it in study and research. I told his eminence, the leader of the revolution, that I would be happy if my present responsibilities were taken away so that I could engage in cultural work. I see myself more as a cultural entity than a political one.

My second reason was that there were and are various political groups in the country. I used to think that activating these groups will be sufficient. But practice showed that there was a vacuum and a need.

Furthermore, I started to ask that maybe inactivity was an excuse for caution. If society and revolution are in need of such activities and no one is standing up to the responsibility, it could be because of caution. The above reasons were the causes for the formation of "Sodevir." Of course action was taken after many consultations that I will mention in due course. But it is necessary to point out that the decision was not a passive reaction toward the activity of other groups, including the "Servants of Construction." We have been thinking about the formation of this society since the beginning of the year.

SOBH: What are, according to your excellency's point of view, the most important duties of the fifth Majles regarding the current and future responsibilities of the country?

Reyshahri: As a rule the Majles has two instruments for reforming the affairs. The deputies will have to use these two instruments well if they want to be successful. The first instrument is that of policy formation and law-making. The Majles determines the country's policies in the form of plans and programs that it proposes. It also approves the country's five-year development plans and approves the country's general programs in the form of the budget bill. The fifth Majles should study the general policies in order to identify their points of weakness and strength, and in order to concentrate on the positive points and to reform the points of weakness. Of course this must be done fairly and free from factionalism. They must be also done through a wise and authoritative approach so that all changes to

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policy are comprehensive, authoritative, and free from factional likes and dislikes. The fifth Majles must use this instrument to carry out its responsibilities regarding the country's general policies.

The second instrument that the Majles must apply is in appointing the most senior executive officials, i.e. the ministers. It is possible that the current policies are sufficient, but the executors are unable or unwilling, for one reason or another, to implement these policies. Naturally, the Majles must act according to its duties vis-a-vis the country and society and must chose another executive. I must emphasize however that one has to refrain from factionalism and one must be fair throughout these stages and decisions must be made after comprehensive and authoritative studies.

SOBH: Some groups and movements have examined the present conditions and have come to a concrete conclusion. Even before entering the Majles they have a particular analysis of whether present policies are sufficient or insufficient and they publicize a certain program. For instance, some groups have opposed the policy of economic adjustment even before entering the Majles. Does "Sodevir" have a particular analysis and opinion? I am asking this because naturally the realization of values need a practical program and unfortunately many of the groups are formed on the basis of obscure rather than affirmative action. In other words, everyone knows what they don't want, but they don't know what they do want. As the spokesperson for "Sodevir," how do you analyze the present policies?

Reyshahri: In examining the current policies, I stress that there is a need to refrain from factionalism, to be fair, and to pay attention to the technical aspects and the authoritative nature of the work so that no group or movement will approve or reject policies or the administrators of the policies without sufficient reflection and study. I think this must be done in the Majles and not the among the groups. It is not important what I think, but it is important what the Majles is going to conclude. Decisions will be made according to these particular conclusions that the Majles might reach on any of the topics.

SOBH: There was an emphasis on the danger of liberalism in Sodevir's statement of policy. Where do you think this trend is now present? And what are the anti-values due to the liberal principles?

Reyshahri: We emphasized the danger of the ideological and cultural anti-values because the Islamic revolution has [ideological] values at its foundation and must be sensitive to any deviation from these values. On the practical side, our people are always present and these anti-values cannot be considered a serious danger for the existence of the revolution. If one was to point out to some liberal examples, one could refer to the most important one as being the thesis of separation between religion and politics. This thesis has been suggested throughout Islamic history. I think from the early days of Islam, those who separated the Koran from 'Etrat [the family of the prophet], caused the separation between religion and politics. His eminence, the Imam [Khomeyni], sanctified be his soul, stressed in his will that Koran and 'Etrat must be kept together. I have discussed this issue extensively in a book on the issue of leadership, which will be published in the next few months, and I have said that separation between religion and politics started with the neglect of 'Etrat. It was the stress by Imam [Khomeyni] on the issue that lead to the unity between religion and politics.

Unfortunately today we see some people, consciously or unconsciously, speaking about a separation between religion and politics. They are trying to limit the sphere of religious activity to that of minor and private matters. And this is of course the program designed by the enemies of the Islamic revolution. I don't want to accuse anyone, nor do I want to question people's motives. But I believe that if anyone wants to separate the religions and the political spheres and wants to limit the religious sphere to personal and private matters, he is walking in line with the plans and designs of the arrogance powers. There is no need to be officially connected to an arrogant power and it is possible to move unconsciously in line with the intentions of the enemies of the Islamic revolution. Those who are now referring to separatism between religion and politics are helping the realization of the aims of the arrogant powers even though they might not know it themselves.

Another issue that has been clearly targeted by the aliens is the thesis of the Guardianship of the Jurisconsult. In the field of politics in our society, religion is manifest and present in the form Guardianship of the Qualified Jurisconsult, and those who speak of the separation between religion and politics also oppose the idea of the Guardianship of the Jurisconsult. In a meeting with the members of the Assembly of Experts, our eminent leader spoke about this issue and stressed that the great volume of material in the media opposed to the revolution is in negation of the progressive idea of the Guardianship of Jurisconsult. The evidence show that Guardianship of Jurisconsult is among the values that are targeted by the enemy and "Sodevir" stresses the need to strengthen and defend this fundamental principle.

I think this is a good measure to select the values that must be supported and further defended in the present circumstances. The greater the attack and questioning

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by the arrogant powers and the enemies of the Islamic revolution, the greater the need and necessity to defend that value. We think that in the present circumstances the great volume of the attack by the enemy is toward values such as the tie between religion and politics and the sovereignty of the just jurisconsults. Therefore, we and "Sodevir" have put the defense of these values on the top of our agenda.

SOBH: It seems that in the formulation of your relations with other Muslim groups you have put the basis on coordination and not separation. In other words you believe in cooperation with other Islamic and revolutionary groups and movements. But how do you draw the line with other Muslim groups, and how do you determine the red line?

Reyshahri: We think that the belief and the devotion to the Guardianship of the Jurisconsult is the red line and we respect all individuals and groups that believe and are devoted to the Guardianship of the Jurisconsult. We believe that there should be a religious and fraternal approach to all Islamic and revolutionary groups and movements. In other words, there should be criticism of their views and operations, but negation is not permissible. Therefore, we might have differences of opinion with others on political or technical matters, and other Islamic groups might not agree with some of our stances, but a religious approach makes it necessary that we should not negate anyone. Criticism, and that only for reform of weaknesses, is sufficient. This is the difference between Islamic and non-Islamic groups. Parties usually are self-centered. Should there be individuals outside "Sodevir" who might be suitable, it will support them and it will not insist on supporting its members only.

SOBH: Is "Sodevir" going to continue its activities after the Majles elections and will it have, like other active groups, offices in cities and provinces?

Reyshahri: Of course we have decided to expand and continue our activity. But I have to say that "Sodevir" is more of a cultural rather than a political organization and therefore, we will be paying more attention to religious and cultural issues.

SOBH: There is no doubt that one of the main weaknesses of the present political organizations is a lack of ideological and cultural content. One should be grateful that "Sodevir" is paying prior attention to cultural issues. But the manifestation of a group's activity is in the political affairs of the country. With regards to the needs of our society and the country, we think that "Sodevir" should act toward the creation of a council and a think tank, as well as a political organization and specialist committees. Of course the opening of offices in the provinces is a serious necessity and the preparation of a study list to strengthen the ideological beliefs and values of the members and arming them with the political and intellectual ideas to fight off questions must be put on the agenda. We think that the overt manifestation of the society cannot be limited to the cultural aspect and must have a political form.

Reyshahri: This is correct, but it is important to move from cultural and mental issues toward political matters and not from political matters to cultural discussions. We look at cultural matters as being the foundation and the infrastructure and we seek to direct political matters in that light. Expanding society's activities will depend on the forces and instruments made available for the society. The activities of the society in the provinces will also expand.

SOBH: Will "Sodevir" participate in the future presidential elections?

Reyshahri: We will definitely participate in all political activities including the presidential elections. But it is not yet clear whether we will have an independent candidate or whether we will introduce a common one with other sympathetic groups.

SOBH: May I thank you for participating in this discussion.

Iran: Official Explains Cancellation of LMI News Conference

LD0803150496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Mar 96 p 1, 14

["LMI'S Press Conference Illegal" — Tehran Times Service report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN — Deputy interior minister for security affairs, Gholam Hoseyn Bolandian, told the Tehran Times that the main reason for cancellation of a press conference organized by the LMI [Liberation Movement of Iran] here Tuesday [5 March] afternoon was that the meeting was illegal.

On Monday evening the Interior Ministry received a fax from the LMI announcing that it was going to hold a press conference at its public relations office Tuesday afternoon, he said, adding, the ministry called up the LMI and informed them that because the LMI was outlawed, the ministry would not permit it [to] hold such a press conference.

Meanwhile, he stressed that as a real entity, there is no legal bar on holding a press conference, but since the LMI is outlawed, giving permission to them for holding a press conference will be tantamount to their recognition, he said.

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However, we informed the LMI that it is not allowed to hold the conference. Taking into account the fact that the ministry trusts the noble Iranian people, we were sure that the LMI would not hold the conference. Unfortunately, the ministry received a report indicating that the LMI is holding the press meeting at the preplanned time and venue.

Thus, the Law Enforcement Forces rushed to the place and stopped continuation of the press conference which was attended by foreign and domestic reporters and journalists.

The LMI on Monday morning and before appealing to the Interior Ministry for permission for the meeting had faxed invitation letters to domestic and foreign media offices here inviting them for the coverage of the conference.

The invitation letter received by the Tehran Times on Monday morning indicated that the press conference was to deal with the fifth Majles elections slated for Friday [8 March].

Secretary general of the LMI, Ebrahim Yazdi; Abolfazl Bazargan; Hassan Farid A'lam, Gholam 'Abbas Tavassoli, and Hashem Sabaghian were present at the site to respond to the media questions on the fifth Majles elections when the Law Enforcement Forces cancelled the meeting on the order of the Interior Ministry.

The LMI has drawn up a list of 16 candidates for Tehran constituency, the eligibility of four of them were confirmed during the first stage of the investigation in the executive bodies, namely Ebrahim Yazdi, Ezzatollah Sahabi, Hashem Sabaghian and Abolfazl Bazargan. Only the eligibility of Sahabi and Bazargan were finalized by the executive bodies.

However, last Saturday, the LMI announced that it would withdraw from the fifth Majles elections. It seems that the LMI was to explain why it boycotted the elections.

Bolandian added that the LMI's candidates whose eligibilities have been confirmed appealed to the Interior Ministry to permit them [to] install their electoral headquarters under the name of the movement. But due to the unlawfulness of the LMI, the ministry is not to permit them as a group but they can have their electoral activities like other individual candidates.

He called on the members of the LMI to continue their activities like other citizens through legal means. Iran belongs to all Iranians and no one should consider himself above the law, he said.

He added despite ballyhoo by foreign media we have shown that all legal groups can participate in election freely. On the security of the elections, he said that despite all rumours spread by aliens we have had no security problem during all stages of the election till today, and the same process will go on until the end of the elections. People's participation in the election will prove that people are eager to participate in the country's political affairs. I invite all foreign media to cover the election in Iran. The reports, pictures and news on the elections will be the best historical witness in this regard, he underlined.

Iran: Tehran Mayor Outlines Policies for G-6 Clerics' Group

LD0803134496 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 5 Mar 96 pp 1, 13

[Article by IRAN NEWS political desk: "Karbaschi Outlines Policy of G-6"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN - A leading member of the G-6 [Group of six Servants of Construction] underlined the importance of existence of his faction saying that "it will bridge a gap."

Tehran Municipal Mayor Gholamhoseyn Karbaschi said that the G-6 had come to the conclusion that required attention was not paid by the deputies on the bills presented in the Majles, according to IRNA.

He said the executive officials from the very first day of the culmination of the Islamic Revolution rendered their services in all circumstance and as per wishes of the politicians.

But, he said, these politicians never entertained the opinion of the executives in political affairs such as elections.

These executives have become oppressed he said, adding that on one side the politicians used them for hard task and on the other hand they were never taken into confidence in the affairs of basic issues such as Majles.

Karbaschi said that executives had worked so hard, but bitter feelings were surfaced between the two because of negative attitude of the politicians.

He said the Majles should have a broader point of view while approving the bill.

Because of the lack of experiences in the executive affairs, the deputies passed the bill and changed it before it could be implemented, he said.

We believe that all factions should join their hands and march towards the country's development, Karbaschi said and added that oil consumption is so much that after 10 to 15 years we would not have crude to export

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if specific steps are not taken to check its domestic consumption.

As a result, he said, we would not have capital for the investment in the development projects.

We need a coordination between the executives and the Majles so that the country may be developed in a healthy way, he said.

All who go to the Majles should have respect for the values of the revolution, he said, adding that the one who has expertise for the solution to the problem of the people, hold the best possible values of the revolution.

All experts are needed for the development of the country including the clerics, he said.

We are not a political group and are not for political objectives, he maintained.

Not military, but the development on sound ground is the only way to combat the enemies, he asserted.

He said that in the Middle East where we have 50-years of military conflicts, efforts are being made by the enemies to put the entire region depended economically on others.

We should try to work for the better life of the people so that poverty may be eradicated from the country, he hoped.

He said that we are not asking that the economic affairs should be handled by the government or subsidies are given.

What we want is that development projects should be implemented, no matter they are implemented by the private sector or government, Karbaschi said.

This is the reason that candidates from the G-6 are not politicians, he said and pointed out they are for the construction of the country.

We did not introduce candidates from one particular group, he said.

We have not come in the election scene to eradicate the JRM [Militant Clergy Association — jame'eh-ye ruhaniyat-e mobarez], he said. This is the reason, JRM opposition against the G-6 is now lesser, he said.

We want to develop the country with minimum resources at our disposal, he said, adding that we have yet to explore our resources.

He lauded the on-going development projects and pointed out that the plan for the social justice has been included in it.

The Fifth Term of the Majles should work on the plan through which country's exports may be increased, Karbaschi emphasized.

Iran: Papers View Summit as Attempt To Boost Israel

LD1203114496 Tehran IRNA in English 1057 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Two English dailies on Tuesday editorialized on the hastily convened conference on terrorism that is scheduled to be held in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Shaykh with the participation of some 20 heads of government. "The prime objective of the summit is to boost the morale of the Zionist regime's security agencies, which have been badly demoralized and disheartened" following a series of bomb attacks that rocked the capital of the zionist regime, wrote 'TEHRAN TIMES'.

Underlining that the motive behind the gathering is not to find the root cause of the problems in the occupied territories, it cited that U.S. President Bill Clinton, as a token of his solidarity with Israel, will be flying after the meeting to Bayt ol-Moqaddas where he will be the first foreign leader to attend a session of Israel's inner security cabinet.

It also noted that agreements for closer and broader cooperation on security affairs are slated to be inked by the U.S. and Israel to ensure that Tel Aviv would maintain a qualitative military advantage over its Arab neighbors.

"Holding the summit will definitely be interpreted by the Zionist regime as a sign of solidarity of participants with its inhuman and expansionist policies," the article said, adding that it "will no doubt encourage Israel in its hegemonistic policies, making the regional conflict more complicated."

It stressed that if the U.S., the sponsor of the conference, is really interested in resolving the issue, it should convene a meeting attended by all parties, including Palestinians, so as to devise a realistic peace plan in the region.

Meanwhile, 'IRAN NEWS' remarked that Sharm al-Shaykh as the venue of the conference, has been a pre-planned ammunition for Israeli publicity and propaganda. Finding itself once more with its Arab neighbors and seeming to be having no designs on the territory of others, Israel is in fact dying to usurp territories in order to translate into reality its ambition for a greater Israel, the daily said. "This is the reason why U.N. resolutions 242, 338 and 425 are still to be

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addressed by Israel, which has continued to keep the world body's verdicts in cold storage," it added.

It also noted that the conference is an attempt to politically shore up Yasir 'Arafat, who is [illegible] fire from both opponents and friends for his faulty ruse, and Shim'on Peres, who has lost his popularity in favor of the rival Likud leader.

It concluded by saying, "Sharm al-Shaykh will be used by Israel and the United States as an avenue for diverting world public opinion from the fact—a fact that condemns terrorism in any form and anywhere."

Iran: Commentary Supports Velayati Stance on Terrorism

LD1003160296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 10 Mar 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Saturday 9 March, in a news conference with Iranian and foreign reporters, once again announced the explicit opposition of the Islamic Republic of Iran to terrorist operations.

Velayati also specified that Iran powerfully defends the rights of the Palestinians but this does not mean that this support takes place with military, financial, or physical aid. The foreign minister, in the news conference, reminded about the bilateral and regional cooperation between Iran and Russia and said that close cooperation between Tehran and Moscow take place to confront terrorism at international level.

The declaration by the Iranian foreign minister is, in reality, an explicit response to the recent political and propagandist stance taken by Washington and Tel Aviv about Iran.

In recent weeks, the American Government and the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime have made baseless claims and accusations against the Iran and intended to accuse Tehran of interfering in the recent events in occupied Palestine. In this respect, the foreign minister specified that this action by the United States and the Zionist regime is a pretext which takes place only to justify the defeat of the process of reconciliation in the Middle East. Washington and Tel Aviv are in reality intending to find an external reason for the failure of their claimed plans.

At any rate, what was expressed in the declaration at the news conference was another emphasis on Iran's explicit opposition to any terrorist operation at the international level.

Since the beginning of the victory of the Islamic revolution, Iran has repeatedly been the target of terrorist plots and actions. And now, too, a number of Western and Arab countries have given refuge to some terrorists.

Iran has the firm opinion that confronting terrorism must take place based on an international decision and far from political objectives. Undoubtedly, holding any assembly or making decisions in the field of massively confronting international terrorism will only demonstrate its positive effects when the viewpoints of the West and Europe towards terrorism become more realistic, documented, and far removed from prejudice and political intentions.

Iran: Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Remarks on Terrorism Noted

NC1203073696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 12 Mar 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you heard in various newscasts, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended a radio and television interview with domestic and foreign correspondents and stated his views on the biggest domestic and international issues. One of the topics discussed was terrorism. In answer to a question by a foreign correspondent, the president stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any terrorist act by anyone anywhere.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani clearly emphasized that terrorism needs a comprehensive definition. In other words, the struggling and legitimate efforts of one group striving to vindicate its rights should be differentiated from blind terrorist acts by truly terrorist and mafia groups, acts that are often perpetrated in coordination with hegemonistic governments.

We cannot tolerate violent acts by countries like Israel and America—either in the occupied territories or in various other places—while another country or group is called terrorist out of spite or because of double standards. For example, from the humanitarian, legal, and logical aspects, it is unacceptable to consider the struggles by Palestinian groups to liberate their territories from the Zionist aggressor as a terrorist attempt, while Israel—an aggressor regime the hands of which are stained by the blood of thousands of innocents—is portrayed as antiterrorist.

As well as propounding a clear and precise definition of terrorism, facts and proof that a country or group is involved in terrorist acts should also be provided. Accusing some countries and groups of terrorist activities

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without basing these accusations on proof or documents is not logically acceptable. How can a country, itself a victim of terrorism, be called terrorist, while the perpetrators and mentors of such terrorist acts are acquitted and defended?

Unfortunately, the definition of the word terrorism, like the words human rights and democracy, has been distorted by the powerful countries to inflict political and economic pressure on others. This, when a glance at the record of these powerful countries clearly shows their involvement in various terrorist acts, both directly and indirectly. Many Western authors and analysts, particularly the philosopher Noam Chomsky, admit that America and Israel are the biggest international terrorists.

Iran: CNN Correspondent Called 'Liar' for Israel Bombing Reports

LD0803200096 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 6 Mar 96 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Clinton Is Angry, Israel Is Insecure, and CNN Correspondent Christianne Amanpour Is a Liar"]

[FBIS Translated Text] International News Desk: In an extensive propaganda ploy, the Zionist regime has accused Iran of involvement in the recent wave of bomb attacks in Israel. The Tel Aviv envoy's to the United Nations on 4 March accused Iran directly of supporting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] politically, militarily, and financially.

The CNN news network in a report yesterday afternoon filed by their correspondent in Tehran reported this news, adding: "Iran's official news agency [IRNA] has described these attacks as 'divine retribution,' but the same news agency has denied that Iran has supported the Hamas bombers in any way."

Christianne Amanpour, CNN's correspondent in Tehran, in her report said that the bombings in Israel had been front page news in all the world's newspapers and claimed that pictures of suicide bombers had been printed in Iranian papers and presented to readers as heroes of Islam. The station showed pictures of kiosks selling newspapers in Tehran, as well as shots of the cover page of a number of newspapers, including AKHBAR and IRAN. However, there were no pictures as described by the correspondent in those newspapers.

CNN, citing the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE newspaper, said Iran's official news agency had described the recent wave of bombings as "the beginning of the end of Israel."

According to CNN, the Iranian Government has denied giving active support to the Palestinian attackers. America, Israel, and now the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] have also made such accusations against Iran.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's deputy foreign minister, has said: "Iran rejects these baseless accusations categorically. Unfortunately, it has become the norm that whenever anything happens that the West cannot explain to the world, the West resorts to these tactics."

In the CNN TV report, Sa'id Reja'i-Khorasani, the Majles deputy, said: "We believe this accusation has no legal basis or justification. I believe America, egged on by Israel, will resort to anything."

Citing Mohammad Javad Zarif, CNN said: Having a belief and expressing a belief is different from being involved in an activity. This difference must be illustrated and described clearly.

CNN said: Iran's spiritual leader [Khamene'i] told a group of worshippers recently that those Arab Governments that were talking to Israel were harming Islam. On the other hand, Iran's president in an interview last summer said that if Syria chose to sign a peace agreement with Israel, Iran would respect Syria's decision. Iran's Foreign Ministry is now once again endorsing this stance.

According to CNN, a number of American officials are insisting that they are in the possession of certain documents that show that Iran is intent on wrecking the Middle East peace process.

However, another group of U.S. officials says one should not constantly condemn Iran immediately.

According to the CNN report, the latest wave of bombings took place at exactly the same time as efforts by Iranian officials to improve Iran's international prestige [preceding word in English]. These officials are telling journalists that certain hardline policies of the past should also be toned down.

Iran: Commentary Sees Palestinians as Freedom Fighters

LD1103135796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Mar 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign ministers of the European Union ended their unofficial meeting in Palermo, Italy, on Sunday March 11th [as heard]. This meeting was important to political observers in two different points. First, the unanimous position of the

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conference to oppose the U.S. over Washington's plan to exert further pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran is something of much significance.

In fact, the European Union demonstrated that it is not a captive to the U.S.-Zionist propaganda campaigns and is not willing to involve itself, without any proof, in an adventure whose results are not known.

Second, in the conference, the need to fight and condemn the phenomenon of terrorism in any of its forms has strongly been emphasized. The conference also asked Iran to condemn terrorism once and for all.

On this last point, it must be said that Iran, which itself is one of the biggest victims of terrorism, has always condemned the hideous phenomenon and so it seems that the problem lies in Europe's viewpoint towards terrorism. What makes Europe to give itself the privilege to adopt a dual policy towards terrorism? What makes the European officials to keep silent when Palestinian freedom fighters are assassinated by the death squads of the Zionist regime and give that terrorist entity green lights to continue with its inhuman policies but, when a Palestinian defending the integrity of his homeland rises to counter the Zionist blind terrorism, all Western mass media and officials raise the slogan to fight against terrorism?

Truly, what causes the European Union leaders to have a dual policy towards terrorism? To answer this question, it should be said that, in European logic, democracy, human rights and terrorism are concepts that should be defined only from their worldly interests perspective and, any time these interests require, the common definitions of human and anti-human concepts and phenomena can be violated and thrown away.

The fact of the matter is that, in today's civilized world, people know very well that terrorism, at any time and in any of its forms, is to be condemned. And this is also a definite reality accepted by world public opinion that the struggle of the people who are fighting to free their motherland from foreign occupation cannot be condemned under the pretext of terrorism.

Iran: EU Urged To Deal 'More Seriously' With Anti-Iran Terrorists

LD1203103696 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi, commenting today on Sunday's statement of the European Union in Palermo on international cooperation for preventing the activities of terrorist groups, said: "We expect that it also deals more seriously with anti-Iranian terrorist groups who enjoy facilities in certain countries and who carry out terrorist acts against Iran's national interests and nationals and are also engaged in subversive activities."

Mohammadi reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the prime victims of terrorism, has time and again condemned terrorism in all its form and has openly and officially announced this stand at the highest level. He hoped that the baseless accusations and fabrications of certain political circles and their media horns against the Islamic Republic of Iran, have become clear for the EU.

Mohammadi was outlining Iran's stance on the EU foreign ministers' meet which ended in Palermo, Sicily on Sunday, and on the recent U.S. sanctions against Cuba.

On the EU proposal for sending a delegation to Tehran, he said Iran had earlier suggested the EU to send a delegation for exploring ways of coordinating measures against terrorism, and it expected such talks to be based on the national interests of the two sides and held in an atmosphere free of the tension raised by opponents of constructive relations.

Commenting on the U.S. boycott of Cuba, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said the American resort to force is a result of its political bankruptcy. He called the U.S. violation of the Cuban air space "a blatant breach of international law", adding that U.S. sanctions against Cuba are against international laws and the regulations of the world trade organization.

Iran: TEHRAN TIMES Says EU Disbelieves U.S. Terrorism Claims

LD0903100296 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — Countries no longer submit to U.S. ballyhoo and the Zionist regime's baseless allegations, the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote on Saturday.

Referring to the accusations levelled by Washington and Tel Aviv against Iran recently, the editorial stressed that Tehran's friends in the European Union (EU) are rational enough not to believe such claims.

"German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Thursday rejected a call by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to stop Germany's dialog with Iran in response to bombings in the Jewish state," it noted, saying that Kinkel himself emphasized that there was no evidence so far that Iran was involved in the suicide bombings by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

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Reiterating Iranian officials' statements that Iran has been the chief victim of terrorism, the article stressed that while Washington has turned a deaf ear, the EU however has realized that the U.S. approach to certain issues stems from Washington's biased attitudes.

"They have also found out that in a bid to isolate its trade partners, the U.S. has completely done away with altruism and resorts to any possible means to outstrip its emergent economic partners in the context of the new world order," it further stated.

In welcoming the EU's initiative, the paper underlined that the Zionist regime and the U.S. have not been able to show a single piece of evidence to support their claims as their desire is to create suspicions about Iran to divert attention from their internal problems.

TEHRAN TIMES concluded by saying, "It is time for the Iranian nation to call on the officials to lodge a defamation suit with the International Court of Justice against Washington and Tel Aviv."

Iran: Daily Hails EU Decision Not To Bow to U.S. Pressure

LD1003120596 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Mar 10 (IRNA) — The English daily IRAN NEWS, in its editorial Sunday, lauded the decision made yesterday by the European Union (EU) declaring that Europe will not bow to U.S. pressures and will not abandon its critical dialogue with Iran on the basis of the false claims against the Islamic Republic.

"Iran, from the very beginning of its dialog with the EU, has expressed its readiness to be a true partner in combatting terror tactics," the article said, emphasizing that more than any country in the world, the Islamic Republic has been victimized by terrorists and has lost many high-level politico-religious personalities to terrorist acts.

Referring to the current atmosphere advocating selective moves and double standards, it underlined that Iran rejects the staging of a specific conference on certain anti-terrorist moves on a selective basis, while the atrocities of the Zionists in the occupied Arab lands and crimes of the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) against the Islamic Republic were ignored.

"Iran is ready to join hands with the EU in combatting terrorism, not selectively but bravely and overtly and in accordance with international law," it underlined.

Noting that European powers were not convinced by unfounded claims on Iran's involvement in the Hamas bombings as there was no evidence whatsoever to support such allegations, the daily concluded by saying: "Yesterday's EU announcement is one more slap in the face for the United States."

Iran: Paper Terms U.S. Perception of Peace Process 'Distorted'

LD1003114096 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Mar 10 (IRNA) — The English daily TEHRAN TIMES commented Sunday on a report from the AFP disclosing that 34 U.S. combat aircraft "would be deployed to Jordan in April or June to support the peace process and regional security".

Underlining that Washington has a distorted version of "peace," the daily noted, "here is what the United States calls the peace process: Take Palestinian land, give it to the Jews... Take Bait- ul-Moqaddas that is sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims, and sanctify it as the official capital of Israel by voting to move the U.S embassy there from Tel Aviv."

Pondering the issue of why America is so intent on supporting the "peace process" and is so worried about "regional security when its eastern coast is some 9,000 miles away from the Middle East," the article stressed that this is because the United States thinks it owns the world, it wants Middle East oil and it has to satisfy Jewish lobbies in the United States.

Stating that only an "arrogant" government would wish to control a region so far away from it and disregard the fact that regional countries must be the ones that should attend to their own interests.

It concluded by saying, "this kind of power took the land from the American Indians and claimed it for itself: Now, it wishes to claim everything else and pretends to support human rights all over the world."

Iran: Anti-Drug Campaign Official Criticizes U.S. Report

NC0803115496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 96 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES Service report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—The U.S. statement accusing Iran of drug production and transit is a baseless report prepared annually by State Department which has no factual foundation, the general director of the International Department of Iran's Headquarters for Anti-Drug Campaign, Qodratollah Asadi, said Sunday [3 March].

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The State Department in its annual report on anti-drug efforts released on Friday said that Afghanistan, Burma, Iran, Nigeria and Syria were listed as major drug producing and drug transit countries.

Speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES in an interview, he added that the statement is politically motivated and that it is the continuation of U.S. hostile policies in order to put Iran's anti-drug policies into question.

Almost all international organizations, including delegations from International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and United Nation Drug Control Programs (UNDCP) have visited installations built up along the borders to fight drug trafficking and admired Iran's efforts in this direction.

The latest delegation visiting Iran was in June 1995 from INCB. The report of the delegation was released Saturday, he said adding, paragraph 326 of the report appearing on page 55 of the report reads as follows:

"In June 1995 the Board sent a mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss all aspects of drug control in that country. The Board notes with satisfaction that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is conducting a systematic fight against illicit drug trafficking. The Board is aware of the difficulties encountered by the national law enforcement authorities in preventing the smuggling of the cannabis resin, opium, morphine and heroin into the country and in preventing its territory from being used to transport most drugs to Europe from its neighboring countries. The Board appreciates the efforts of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in that direction and recommends that the government should be provided with assistance in the form of equipment for law enforcement activities."

Iran has never asked any assistance from the U.S. for its anti- narcotics campaign, he said, adding this is an indication negating the U.S. claim.

The U.S. Administration has even opposed equipping of Iran and Pakistani law enforcement forces by the UN along the joint borders.

Moreover, only UNDCP and INCB are authorized to supervise anti- drug campaign of countries and prepare their report on the performance of each country, he said, adding that the United States has no right to interfere in this regard.

We strongly reject the U.S. baseless claim, he remarked.

The International Police (Interpol) has always lauded Iran for its anti-narcotics campaign, he underlined.

On the amount of drugs seized in Iran, he said, in 1995 some 126 tons of opium, 2.075 tons of heroin, 11.046 tons of morphine and 15.854 tons of hashish (all equal to 256 tons of opium) were seized from smugglers.

On the measures taken by the law enforcement forces to fight drug trafficking, he said, exchange of information between Iran and Pakistan, joint border patrols, contacts between the commanders of law enforcement forces of Iran's Sistan-Balushetan Province with their counterparts in Pakistan and joint border meetings held every four months are among the measures to fight drug trafficking along Iran-Pakistan joint borders.

Since there is no strong central government in Afghanistan we have not been able to launch joint efforts with this country. Moreover, the annual production of poppy in Afghanistan is between 2,200 to 2,400 tons, hence, it is difficult to cooperate with that country in this field, Asadi said.

Among security arrangements to fight drug trafficking along the borders, he said, we have constructed 170 border posts along the 1700 km-long joint borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. There is a watching tower in each post connecting the posts to each other.

We have built up about 1,000 kms of paved roads in order to facilitate surveillance along the border which has no economic usage but has been built to fight drug trafficking, he said.

About 1,520 kms of bulwark have been constructed and canals with 5 meters depth and 4 meters width dug along the borders to check infiltration of smugglers, he said, some $200 million have been allotted to such measures.

So far 1,400 members of the law enforcement forces personnel have been martyred in their fight against drug trafficking along the borders, he added.

On the measures to remove poverty and create jobs in order to discourage local people from joining international drug traffickers, he said that several industrial and poultry projects have been established in the region.

Iran's anti-drug measures have been so effective that the drug trafficking routes have been shifted to the Central Asian region.

Drug trafficking routes via Iran are the shortest to Europe, he said, adding, Iran's anti-drug measures have forced drug traffickers to Turkmenistan, and Turkey. Also trafficking is carried out by ships via Pakistani coasts.

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Iran: Tehran Radio Examines Extension of UN Sanctions on Iraq

NC0903161896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 9 Mar 96

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite Iraq's extensive efforts to create conditions for the lifting of the country's economic embargo, the UN Security Council once again extended the sanctions against Iraq at its Thursday [7 March] session.

Once every two months, the UN Security Council assesses the issue of sanctions against Iraq so that the sanctions can be lifted if the conditions are considered appropriate. The subject that is being reviewed at the Security Council is whether Iraq has implemented UN resolutions in toto and if it will adhere to the commitments stipulated therein.

At the latest Security Council session, the members listened to reports presented on Iraq, and reached the conclusion that it is not yet time for the removal of sanctions against Iraq. Among the Security Council members, the United States is considered the main obstacle to the lifting of the embargo on Iraq. It insists that Iraq continues to obstruct UN resolutions and that it is necessary that the sanctions should continue.

A day after extending the sanctions against Iraq, the Security Council reviewed a new situation that has arisen between the UN commission for the disarmament of Iraq and Baghdad, with Iraq's refusal to permit the disarmament commission's inspectors to enter a government building in Baghdad. This building, which houses the Iraqi Agricultural Ministry does not have any connection with ordnance industries. However, UN inspectors have become suspicious and believe that documents on weapons of mass destruction have been kept in the building.

Four years ago, the Iraqi Agriculture Ministry was inspected on the suspicion that documents on Iraq's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction had been kept in the building, which was eventually investigated despite the opposition of the Iraqi authorities. The UN commission on Iraq's disarmament believes that documents that could assist in exposing Baghdad's military program are still in the Agriculture Ministry building.

There is a dichotomy in the UN Security Council on the lifting of sanctions against Iraq as some countries favor the lifting of sanctions. However, the emergence of this new situation has served to undermine their stance. This will also strengthen the position of those opposed to the lifting of Iraqi sanctions, who will continue to insist on retaining these sanctions from a position of strength. Such issues could culminate in the continuation of the sanctions against Iraq for a prolonged period.

Iran: Editorial Says Saddam 'Happiest Leader' in Middle East

LD0103151596 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 27 Feb 96 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "Saddam Enjoys Blessings of His Underwriters in Washington"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Guess who is the happiest leader in the Middle East these days?

President Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

Saddam, an isolated and condemned ruler, seems more content and comfortable amid widespread instability at home and threats from outside.

The biggest and largely unexpected moral booster for the Ba'th Party dictator came last week when his two important aides who doubled as his sons-in-laws returned to Baghdad after six months in self-imposed exile.

General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother, Colonel Saddam Hasan had defected to Jordan in August. There they had publicly called for the overthrow of their "brutal" father-in-law and his oppressive regime.

In mid-February, they suddenly realized that they had made a strategic error of identity and failed to garner support from the cross section of the Iraqi opposition in exile. Saddam's political opponents made known that Kamil Hasan of the al-Majid clan was as brutal and fiendish as his master, if not more.

So, the events that unfolded turned out to be rather strange, if not totally unpredictable. The opposition, Jordan, the United States, Britain, et al. all dumped the al-Majid brothers. Amman politely informed the "unwanted guests" that they were welcome to enjoy the hospitality of the monarch or "free to return home." And, as such, King Husayn's court apparently did not give the defectors a third option.

The fugitive general, two of his brothers, and father were killed on Friday by "relatives" who wanted to restore the lost honor and dignity of the al-Majid clan. The general was indeed not an imbecile. For more than a decade he managed Iraq's formidable arms industry and was said to be Number Two in Iraq. On Friday the Ba'th rulership for the umpteenth time established

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that in Saddam's Iraq there is no parallel power. The president's son 'Udday is a different story.

Paradoxical as it may seem Saddam is seeing his wishes come true one after another, obviously in part with blessings from his permanent underwriters in Washington.

Two high-profile "traitors" were taken care of by their clan members, the Iraqi opposition remains as divided as ever, the West says presently there is no viable option to Saddam's clique, the regime's Arab antagonists are themselves in deep trouble, Saudi Arabia is in the vortex of a power struggle, Bahrain is falling apart, the royalty in Qatar are fighting for the throne, and Kuwait as usual feels threatened and unstable.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the only power in the region that can keep Saddam and his generals in line, is preoccupied with its own post-war reconstruction and has called for normal relations with Iraq.

Taken at face value, the Iraqi ruler is enjoying a political honeymoon. Among other things he understands perfectly that the slightest sign of leniency and flexibility will put him and his blood-stained political career in the same grave. That is why he personally saw to it that his two daughters are widowed and their children fatherless. The response against the al-Majid enteprise was swift and terrible.

But in politics only change is permanent. There is simply no guarantee the status quo is Baghdad will not change. The president's inner circle is getting smaller than before as some pretty important obstacles (for future rulers) are being removed.

Killings in high places will naturally breed considerable frustration and ill-will on both sides. Maybe this is what the foreign proponents of change inside Iraq actually want. And then, given the culture of politics and intrigue in Baghdad, the day may not be too far away when the president signs the order to liquidate 'Udday or vice versa.

Iran: Paper Says Azerbaijan Should Alter Foreign Policies

LD0803121496 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 5 Mar 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Azeri Leadership Should Revise Its Policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An unexpected development took place in Baku, and according to reports from the Azeri capital, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his host, Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov, traded angry remarks during a press conference on Sunday [3 March].

The dispute was over Iran's relations with the Armenian Republic and Azerbaijan's relations with Israel.

Commenting on the dispute, Velayati said that Azerbaijan was moving too close to Israel. Hasanov claimed that Armenia has fully broken the Azeri-imposed economic blockade by using Iranian territory.

Irano-Azeri relations, despite the two countries' common historical and cultural traditions, are sensitive. We should not forget that the Republic of Azerbaijan is one of the few states whose leaders belong to the Shi'i School of Islam and the common culture of the Shi'i School of Islam is a significant factor in the relations of the two countries.

Despite these cultural similarities between the two neighbours, the fact remains that Azeri President Heydar Aliyev's policies suffer from a major weakness. He is never firm in his policies and changes his position on vital issues too frequently.

Because of Aliyev's inconsistent policies, people in the region consider him to be an opportunist. The same is said of his close aides. They also follow the same policy.

The fact is that to compare Irano-Armenian relations is not a new phenomenon. Tehran and Yerevan have had cordial relations from the very first day when the Soviet Union disintegrated and the republics in the Caucasus and Central Asia became independent.

Iran has friendly ties with all its neighbours in Central Asia and the Caucasus region.

So much so that when Aliyev headed the autonomous Nakhichevan enclave, Iran extended humanitarian aid to that republic. In those days too, Iran continued its relations with the Armenian Republic, and on the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh Iran did its best and played an effective mediatory role by being an honest broker of peace.

And what about the Russian stand? Moscow also has been following the same policy as far Azerbaijan and Armenia are concerned, with no protest from Baku.

Iran openly condemned the Armenian attack against Azerbaijan and consistently demanded that all the Azeri-occupied lands must be vacated.

On the other hand, Azerbaijan has changed its policy during the last few months. The Azeri leadership should realize that the Israelis have not come to their country to help them solve their problems.

Dr. Velayati was right when he said Israel is effectively moving to the very borders of Iran to create problems for the Islamic Republic. Iran will never tolerate such

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a phenomenon on its borders. The Iranian government spokesman was right when he maintained that the land of Muslim Azeris would never be placed at the disposal of Israel to plot against Iran. It is better for the Azeri leadership to revise its policies to serve the interests of the region as a whole.

Iran: Editorial Says Slogans of Revolution Must Be Valued

LD1103172796 Tehran SOBH in Persian 5 Mar 96 p 1

[Editorial by Managing-Director Mehdi Nasiri: "The fifth Majles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the 18 Esfand [8 March] the Muslim people of Iran will be carrying out their religious and revolutionary duties by going out to cast their votes for the deputies of their choice for the fifth Majles. It is possible to predict that this time, too, the people of Iran will, through their large-scale presence, demonstrate that they are the most forward people when it comes to being present on the country's political arenas and the most sensitive when it comes to determining their country's destiny.

There is a need to remind everyone, however, about the sensitive nature of this present point in time — for the revolution and the fifth Majles.

Looking at the configuration of the country's political forces and, more important than this, focusing on the creeping political and cultural currents that have succeeded in instilling some doubts in the minds of some of the forces that belong to the revolution, prompting them to do about-faces, maintain silence, and revise their views on the most essential and fundamental principles of the revolution and aspirations of the departed Imam [Khomeyni], one can see that the fifth Majles will be one of the important factors in determining the issue of whether the Islamic republic's system will continue to maintain its dynamic, revolutionary, and belligerent spirit in the new, evil world where bullying and injustice are rampant. Or, whether, by switching off the engine of the revolution, it will favor a stagnant, obedient presence and accept the equations and regulations of the new world?

Anyone familiar with the A,B,Cs of political life cannot deny that they have felt the growing presence of a current [Persian: jarian] in the country whose better members turned the juncture of the acceptance of the [cease-fire] resolution 598 into a first prelude for setting aside many of the principles of the revolution. And after this, they used this prelude to speak and write and act and whose infiltrators [Persian: nufuzihayeshan] never even believed in these principles or sympathized with the divine essence of this revolution and system.

What we would like to say is that it is not only the spiritual survival of this system and country that is dependent on the preservation of the revolution's slogans and their implementation in practice, but that the economic progress of the system and country also depend on this.

If the Islamic republic's system continues to maintain its uncompromising and belligerent spirit against arrogance, then it will surely succeed, just as it has so far succeeded in foiling political, cultural, economic, and military pressures. It will also succeed in bringing about some important changes in the political equations of the world, for its own interest and those of the Muslims, thus increasing its strength, day by day. But, to set aside or to marginalize these slogans and principles, and give priority to economic development, means the loss of the most important, or, rather, the only important winning card of the system.

To abandon the battle between revolutionary Islam and the liberal, hegemonistic West and to enter the arena of competition between development and underdevelopment, can be only rationalized by a simple-minded person who does not believe in religion and the revolution.

It is in this context that the recent guideline of the esteemed leader finds true meaning and clarity. The esteemed leader said: "A Majles deputy ought to be able to preserve this nation, under the auspices of the revolution's principles, and ought to follow the line and path of the Imam."

Pakistan

Pakistan: Editorial Views U.S. Actions Towards PRC-Taiwan Situation

BK1203105596 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Mar 96 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Sabre Rattling"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. for quite some time has been critical of the Chinese Government for its alleged violations of human rights and intellectual property rights; and this criticism has often been followed by threats of cancelling the MFN [Most Favored Nation] status that China enjoys as a big trading partner of the U.S. But each year that status is renewed without much ado for that arrangement is also in the best interest of the U.S. business community. Things, however, seem to be heating up a little over China staging air and naval exercises in a 17,000 kilometer zone between the

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mainland and Taiwan, particularly the test firing of M-9 missiles near the territorial waters of the breakaway province of China. The U.S. Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, while threatening Beijing with "grave consequences" has also talked about sending an aircraft carrier and its escort vessels closure to Taiwan. Pentagon is also reported to have dispatched a guided missile cruiser to the area to observe the missile tests. This sabre rattling on the part of the U.S., however, does not amount to much except perhaps a pretence that the country may still want to honour the commitments it made to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act. Given the background, it is not difficult to conclude that if a few years ago Taiwan could be dispensed with easily for prospects of better relations with the mainland, the U.S. would not be willing now to enter into a serious confrontation with the People's Republic over any perceived or real threat to the island's security.

Hence, though it may want to make a show of wanting to come to the aid of the Taiwanese Government, the U.S. is not expected to do anything to keep the People's Republic from taking over what even the U.S. has recognised as its legitimate right. Even Beijing, though it says it may take back the breakaway province through the use of force, is unlikely to do the same any time soon: it may instead wait for an opportune moment till it is able to attract an indigenous leadership there to move towards reunification. Beijing military exercises will end on March 20, and so will the rhetoric from Washington. What will last would be China's MFN status in Washington and an eagerness there to explore newer avenues for the expansion of trade ties with one of the fastest growing economies of Asia.

Pakistan: U.S., Pakistan Officials Differ on Military Equipment Fees

BK1203104396 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 12 Mar 96 pp 1,6

[Report by Special Correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reliable sources, Pakistan has provided the Office of Defense Representative in Pakistan (ODRP) with a list of the military equipment that is due to Pakistan after a lapse of six years. Certain differences have emerged between U.S. and Pakistani officials. Pakistani officials feel that the Pakistani armed forces no longer require the items, which are worth $368 million and have been withheld under the Pressler Amendment. U.S. officials feel that if Pakistan does not buy the equipment no other country will, and Pakistan's money will remain withheld. A high-level Pakistani delegation headed by Mazhar Rafi, Secretary of Defense for Production, will discuss this matter with U.S. officials. Reliable sources say that these talks, which will begin on 2 April and last three days, are critical because there are several differences between the records of Pakistan and the United States regarding the amount Pakistan has already paid. The United States wants to deduct from the amount already paid by Pakistan the charges for servicing the equipment and the training to use it, which was never even provided to Pakistan. Pakistani officials feel that the dues for servicing the equipment and for training should not be charged to Pakistan because the equipment never reached Pakistan.

Pakistan: Editorial Denounces Delays in Implementing Brown Amendment

BK1103040196 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 10 Mar 96 p 10

[Editorial: "Brown Amendment—Avoiding Implementation Six Weeks After Its Adoption"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicholas Burns, the U.S. State Department spokesman said that it has not yet been established if the reports regarding the transfer of nuclear technology from China to Pakistan are true. He said the United States is still investigating the matter and deliberating over it. The spokesman was responding to questions from a number of European and U.S. journalists. He denied reports that the director of the CIA made a statement to a Senate Committee regarding China's supply of ring magnets to Pakistan. The spokesman claimed that the statement of the director has been misinterpreted, and that it was taken out of context.

The Brown Amendment was approved as law on 26 January. Under normal circumstances it would have been implemented by now. The equipment that was to be transferred to Pakistan and other necessary steps should be completed; however, anti-Pakistan lobbies have launched a media campaign claiming China transferred nuclear material to Pakistan. Since these reports, the U.S. Administration maintains the stand that it has not reached a conclusive decision regarding the Brown Amendment. It is still not clear why the Brown Amendment has not been implemented, despite being past six weeks ago.

The State Department spokesman added that talks with Pakistan and China are continuing. He said imposing sanctions on any country is a serious matter, which should not be decided quickly. It remains to be determined that if China did supply ring magnets to Pakistan how useful would those ring magnets be for Pakistan's nuclear program, and does it provide justification for imposing sanctions against China and Pakistan. If this is true, then implementing the Brown Amendment should have begun by now. The U.S. Administration is delaying

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the exercise powers conferred on it through this amendment. This forces the Pakistani people to believe that the United States wants to keep Pakistan under pressure.

The spokesman said the United States wants to see South Asia become a nuclear-free region and wants India and Pakistan to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. India has clearly said that it will not sign the CTBT. The CTBT calls for all nuclear powers to destroy their nuclear weapons within ten years. Since this is an impracticable demand, it would not be wrong to say that India has given clear indication about signing the CTBT. On the other hand, what is Pakistan's attitude? It is ready to sign the CTBT, but only providing India does so as well. Pakistan is prepared to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but on the same condition — that its neighboring country does so. Pakistan has clearly announced that it will not conduct a nuclear explosion, as long as India does not carry out its second nuclear test. All this evidence makes it clear that Pakistan is ready to cooperate with the international community to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. Efforts for nuclear arms control should continue at the international-level. The United States should exert pressure on India. Implementing the Brown Amendment should begin immediately, because no allegations against Pakistan have been proven.

The United States has not given a clear indication when the investigation of the transfer of nuclear materials from China to Pakistan will be completed. There is no justification for continuing this situation. The Government of Pakistan should draw President Clinton's attention towards this unfair and unjustified attitude of the U.S. Administration. The government should demand that the Brown Amendment be implemented without delay. This would be a legitimate demand on the part of the Pakistani Government. If the United States does not respond positively to it, then Pakistan can conclude that the United States is not ready to do us justice.

Pakistan: Air Force To Buy Used Mirage Aircraft From Europe

BK1203103496 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 12 Mar 96 p 18

[APP report from Islamabad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan intends to buy second hand Mirage III and V aircraft from different countries which will be upgraded for induction into Pakistan Air Force inventory, defence minister Aftab Shaban Mirani said here on Monday.

Talking informally to journalists, he said the talks for the purchase of used Mirage aircraft were in progress with Belgium, Spain and France.

Answering a question, he said the consultations were also in progress with France regarding the purchase of Mirage 2000. He said a team of experts would soon be visiting Paris to carry forward the talks.

To another question, he said Pak-U.S. negotiations for the release of $368 million worth of defence equipment under the newly-enacted Brown Amendment would be held in Washington in the first week of April. He expressed the optimism that the three-day talks commencing from April 2 would be fruitful resulting in the release of stuck-up military hardware. He said the second meeting of Pak-U.S. Consultative Group since it was revived last year will be held after April talks.

To a question, he said, there is nothing to be worried about the situation on the country's borders. However, he said, "we have to remain vigilant and we are fully vigilant".

Pakistan: Ali: India Seeking 'Propaganda Points' With Talks Offer

BK1203041796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said India's offer of talks with Pakistan has been made only to score propaganda points, and it does not reflect India's genuine desire for a dialogue. He was commenting on the statement of Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee in parliament, in which he had claimed that India's offer of talks has been communicated to Pakistan at various levels.

The foreign minister pointed out that it was Pakistan which had repeatedly told India that it wanted dialogue, provided it was meaningful and would substantively address the core issue of Kashmir. He said Pakistan is ready to resume a dialogue with India on an agenda which will include two informal papers of Pakistan and six informal papers of India. The two informal papers forwarded by Pakistan consisted of modalities for holding a plebiscite in Kashmir and creating a congenial atmosphere in occupied Kashmir. He said it is not logical to commence a dialogue without any agreement on such basic points of the agenda.

Pakistan: Editorial Urges Nuclear Test To Prove Capability to India

BK1203093896 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Mar 96 p 4

[Editorial: "Nuclear Deterrent — Prove It by Conducting an Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan has voluntarily decided not to

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conduct a nuclear explosion. She also said that according to her information, India will not conduct such an explosion either. We do not know how the prime minister received the right to speak on behalf of India, or how she acquired the capability to assess India's intentions. Her declaration that Pakistan will not conduct an explosion is also strange; although this declaration is not at all astonishing coming from the government that had previously capped the nation's nuclear program. It is also ironical that while in Indonesia she discussed the possibility of war breaking-out between India and Pakistan, yet on her return to Pakistan she contradicted these statements. No matter how vehemently the prime minister denies this fact, India will certainly inflict a war on us. It is already waging a war all over occupied Kashmir and it has extended this war to the Line of Control and the Azad Kashmir. If this battle does not escalate into a full-fledged war, it is because of Pakistan's weakness. If Pakistan had enough courage, or if it wanted to retaliate a move by India, a dreadful war would have begun in the Sub-continent. Another way to prevent war is to have Pakistan acquire nuclear capability. It is highly regrettable that the prime minister has announced that we will not conduct a nuclear explosion. Obviously, Pakistan's nuclear capability cannot be proven unless it conducts a test explosion. Without a test, India will not feel threatened by Pakistan.

Since Benazir Bhutto rules the country, and the fate of the nation is decided by her, then she should be brave enough to live up to her responsibilities. Keeping in mind the needs of the people of Pakistan, she should conduct a nuclear explosion to counter the evil designs of the Hindus. This will enable Pakistan to enter the international nuclear club and then the cold war that continues against Pakistan will also come to an end.

Pakistan: Military Sources Deny Possibility of Outbreak of War

BK1003112496 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 6 Mar 96 pp 1, 8

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rawalpindi (NNI)—High-ranking military officials have denied any possibility of war breaking out between India and Pakistan and have said that Indian firing at the Line of Control and in the Sialkot-Jammu Sector is aimed at installing barbed wire along the 200-km working boundary and at changing this working boundary into a permanent border. This situation, however, cannot lead to a war between India and Pakistan. The sources said that the clashes between Indian and Pakistani border security forces are not unusual; nor has either of the countries alerted its military forces. They said that India does not dare to attack Pakistan in the present situation because it is already paying a high price as a result of ordinary skirmishes. Sources say that Pakistani border troops have taken serious notice of this situation and have also apprised the international community about it.

Pakistan: Differences With Iran Over Afghanistan Reportedly Growing

BK1003125796 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Mar 96 p 12

["Comment" by Marianna Baabar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Differences between Tehran and Islamabad continue to grow despite the ongoing high level visits between the two countries and the spate of friendly rhetoric which flows from both sides after every visit.

Differences on Afghanistan are only part of the problem. As both Pakistan and Iran accelerate efforts to expand their markets in the region, a "new war of economics" has sprung up.

It started with Islamabad's belated move to explore the region after the fall of the "iron curtain," as it suffered blow after blow after being held hostage to "selective US sanctions."

Diplomatically, Tehran has played its diplomatic cards much better than Islamabad. It has a good leverage with Rabbani and also enjoys a working relationship with New Delhi, something which greatly irks Islamabad.

Both countries want to provide trade routes to the Central Asian Republics [CARs]. Iran wants the CARs to trade through its waters in Bandar Abbas. This is one race that Pakistan has also entered and is in no mood to lose, arguing that Karachi is the shortest available route for the CARs. Indeed, in Indonesia, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto dilated a lot over the role of Pakistan as a gateway to the Central Asian market.

Pakistan's efforts to move closer to the United States are not lost on Tehran either, which faces multiple overt and covert sanctions imposed by the US.

Only last week, Islamabad received a diplomatic shock as Afghan "President" Borhanoddin Rabbani paid an "official" visit to Tehran. Pakistan considers Rabbani's government illegitimate and in violation of various accords signed by him at Islamabad and Riyadh. Also, no state had yet accorded legitimacy to the Taleban, despite the fact that they "literally govern" Afghanistan.

Pakistan would also find itself in an embarrassing position in Ashgabat this year at the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] Summit, as it would have to

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be seen fraternising with Rabbani, and accepting him as an equal because that is exactly what it will amount to when all heads of states take their seats both on the negotiating and dining tables.

Sharp differences surfaced last week again when the Taleban alleged that Kabul had opposed Pakistan's repairing of the Chaman-Torghunday 800 km road because of pressure from Tehran. Rabbani had argued that Islamabad's decision to finance repairs for the Chaman-Torghunday highway would create further tension and destabilisation in the region. A totally unfair allegation!

Taleban leader Maulvi Wakil Ahmad had pointed out that Iran didn't want a road link between Pakistan and the Central Asian Republics as it wanted to develop its own route through Bandar Abbas.

Islamabad has noted with concern the "warming up of Tehran, New Delhi and Moscow" over Afghanistan. After having literally losing out over Kabul, it remains to be seen how Islamabad will plan the next diplomatic moves with its traditional ally in the region.

Pakistan: Iranian Minister Talks to Media in Islamabad

BK1003134796 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Mar 96 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ishtiaq Ahmad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Morteza Sarmadi has said on Monday that on the gas pipeline from Iran to India, Tehran is in full agreement with Islamabad, although we need "more negotiations with India" as the pipeline will pass through "the land" of Pakistan.

And, in what can be termed a recent shift in Iranian standpoint on Kashmir, Mr Sarmadi suggests that India and Pakistan should not stop just at UN initiative on the issue; rather, they should "try every other" option. He also admits the differences between Iran's and Pakistan's approach to the Afghan problem still exist.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister was talking to Presspersons here at the residence of Iranian ambassador Mehdi Mohammad Akhondzadeh during a lunch held in his honour.

"(On the gas pipeline project), I think we can proceed with the project in cooperation with both Pakistan and India," said Mr Sarmadi, who, unlike Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ala'eddin Borujerdi, stays mostly in Iran "handling visits of foreign delegations" to Iran "on sensitive issues". Mr Borujerdi, however, takes care of the political side of the Iranian foreign policy.

The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister's Press talk focused on Pakistan-Iran relationship, Afghanistan, South Asia (particularly Kashmir), the Persian Gulf, Iran's Asian cooperation idea, and the nuclear matters.

Regarding the Asian cooperation, he said Pakistan remained one of the most important factors in any interstate cooperation in Asia. He said that in South Asia Iran wanted to prevent tension.

"For Asian cooperation, it is necessary to resolve tension in South Asia... The United Nations initiatives have been tried on Kashmir, but all other initiative should also be tried. Both India and Pakistan should solve the problem through negotiations. The two countries should not stop at the UN initiative only," the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister said.

When asked about the emerging nuclear nexus among Iran, China, India and Russia, he said at present it did not exist, "but we will welcome such a cooperation."

On Afghanistan, Mr Sarmadi said that the situation there was very bad and what both Iran and Pakistan can do is to provide the people of Afghanistan the assistance they need, and that neither of the two countries can "do the job on behalf of them." The Afghans have themselves to solve their problems. This is what both Iran and Pakistan are doing through their "own channels."

Admitting that the Iranian and Pakistani stand on Afghanistan is not same. However, both have reached the conclusion that one group cannot control Afghanistan, and that the means to solve the problem is not military. "May be Pakistan gives priority to one group over the other." But the settlement of the issue can only be brought by "working together." He said that President Borhanoddin Rabbani was in Tehran. "Although I do not know the details about our official talks with him, but the civil war situation in Afghanistan is the main issue."

Mr Sarmadi said that the Rabbani government was a legitimate government because of its representation in the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference], the NAM [Nonaligned Movement], and the UN. "With Pakistani officials we are talking about the circumstances to forget the past and bring peace in Afghanistan."

The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister appreciated the hospitality that he was given by the Government of Pakistan during the last two days of his visit here. On Monday morning, Mr. Sannadi met Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister also talked about the situation in the Persian Gulf, including the recent happenings in Bahrain. "What happened in Bahrain was

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its internal affair. We hope the problem will be settled and will not lead to the escalation of tension."

"For us, the Persian Gulf is a sensitive region, and we are trying to prevent the escalation of tension. It is due to the state of tension that foreign powers justify and increase their military presence in the region. That is how the purchase of their weapons also continues," he said.

On the Middle East peace settlement, Mr Sarmadi was of the view that in the peace process that was going on, there was no role for the people, and that Iran wanted a genuine peace settlement in the Middle East. Israel, he said, was an "illegitimate state."

APP add: When asked to enunciate Tehran's position on Kashmir,; he said Iran wants a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in terms of the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He said Iran supports, "UN initiatives," in this regard and is ready to help find a settlement even beyond this. But, hastened to add, "We are not seeking something which is unacceptable to Pakistan."

Yet to another question, he said, "We have always supported rights of Kashmiri people and any kind of violence against them is unacceptable to us."

"It makes our job difficult," he responded to a question about Indian massive arms build-up. "We intend to prevent military confrontation and escalation of tension."

Meanwhile speaking at the Institute of Strategic Studies on "Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Asia", he said, both Pakistan and Iran are keen to solve the Afghan issue but have adopted different ways to do so.

"Though we (Iran and Pakistan) may have some differences on the Afghan issue, however there is goodwill from both the sides to end the suffering of the Afghan people."

Refuting that Iran's invitation to the Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani was some sort of signal reflecting Iran's support to him, he said. "Both the countries want to solve the crisis. We can cooperate and collaborate in this regard," he added.

"There are some differences but we have this policy of returning peace and stability to Afghanistan."

However, in a lighter vein, Sarmadi added, "It is the journalists who try to widen the gap between the two, to make their stories interesting.

To a question about India's massive spending on defence and its hegemonistic designs, he said, in the presence of such a policy cooperation cannot materialise among close nations.

"If we have to follow the idea of cooperation than we will have to change our existing policies. But to make it a success, we must believe in it and try to find ways and means to adopt it," he added.

The Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, added that militarization and heavy investment in defence will not take a country anywhere.

"It is the genuine desire of Iran to limit the military adventurism whether in Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean."

Highlighting Iran's Foreign Policy on Asia, Sarmadi said, regional cooperation plays a special role in the promotion of relations among countries, and is the most important factor responsible for their political and economic progress.

This is why, he said, "Iran's foreign policy backs expansion of relations, bolstering of peace and stability in the region, and enhancement of ties, in qualitative and quantitative terms, with other countries, especially friendly and brotherly states in Asia."

The Twenty-first century, he said, belongs to Asia and Iran has paid special attention to the establishment and expansion of regional cooperation with the Asian countries.

To enhance cooperation among the regional nations, Sarmadi said, in future global equations Asia's share in shaping up the new world order will be very crucial.

Iran, he said, has made its best endeavours to amicably resolve the disputes in the region and has played a constructive role in establishing security in Northern Iraq, in its humanitarian efforts towards resolving Afghan crisis, to settle the crisis in Tajikistan and the measures to resolve the Karabakh crisis.

He also highlighted the role of both Iran and Pakistan in bolstering cooperation in Asia and also in influencing a new and just international order.

Pakistan: Government Offers To Assist Bosnia in Strengthening Defense

BK1203111896 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 Mar 96 p 1

[Report from THE FRONTIER POST Bureau in Islamabad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan Sunday offered to help strengthen Bosnia's defence preparedness within parameters of the Dayton peace accord.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told a news briefing Monday that Pakistan was ready to help Bosnia

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in enhancing its defense preparedness. However, Pakistan's assistance would remain within the framework of international efforts a reference to the U.S. brokered Dayton accord.

The foreign minister briefed the press after presiding over the first session of the two-day OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] Assistance Mobilisation Group (AMG) for Bosnia. Addressing the first session, the foreign minister said, "recognising the need of the Bosnians for maintaining their defence preparedness, we shall coordinate with our Bosnian brothers and conclude such understandings and agreements as may be necessary to assist them".

Asif also offered to promote economic and technical cooperation with Bosnia, both in public and private sectors, especially in the field of agriculture, industry, joint venture, education and health.

He said that Pakistan supported that the works of International war crimes tribunal and had already provided one million dollars for the purpose. Pakistan had also offered the Bosnian Government help in processing cases in the war crimes tribunal, he maintained.

Representative from 14 OIC countries are attending the third meeting of AMG for Bosnian.

Asif hoped that the meeting would support the Bosnian proposal that a meeting of the OIC contact group be held later this month in Sarajevo.

Foreign secretary Najam-ud-Din A Sheikh, while briefing the newsmen said that the assistance Mobilisation Group (AMG) for Bosnia looked forward to mastering support for the first World Bank pledging conference in April this year.

PPI [Pakistan Press International] adds: The foreign secretary want on to say that the ways to ensure rehabilitation of the Bosnians, including one million displaced persons with Bosnia and equal number of those having left the country, also came under discussion.

He said that the Bosnians were satisfied with implementation of the military part of the Dayton accord. They were, however, not happy with implementation of the civilian part of the agreement, he pointed out.

He said that the Dayton Accord provided for an understanding among Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia on military balance by June this year, adding that negotiations among the three parties in this regard were continuing in Vienna.

He, however said that if no understanding was reached among the three parties on the issue involving military balance by June this year, certain limits prescribed under the Dayton accord, would be enforced.

The foreign secretary said that according to World Bank's estimates, per capita income of Bosnia had dropped from 1900 dollars to 600 dollars.

He said that war had also adversely affected the infrastructure there, adding that 35 per cent of roads and forty percent of bridges had completely been destroyed in Bosnia and the total damage cause to the roads and bridges amounted to one hundred billion dollars.

Pakistan: OIC Assistance Group Holds Meeting on Aid to Bosnia

BK1103154496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A two-day meeting of the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference], Assistance Mobilizing Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina began in Islamabad this morning. Inaugurating it, the foreign minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali called upon the OIC member states to chart fresh perspective to strengthen cooperation with Bosnia-Herzegovina in the post-Dayton period and respond generously to the requirements of the republic. Recounting the assistance provided to Bosnia-Herzegovina by Pakistan despite severe resources constraint, the foreign minister said we look forward to further strengthening our close cooperation with the Bosnian people. He said Pakistan is ready to coordinate with Bosnia-Herzegovina in the efforts to conclude understanding and agreements to assist that country in its defense preparedness, agriculture, industry, education and health.

Pakistan: Editorial Speculates President May Dismiss Government

BK1203092196 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Mar 96 p 4

[Editorial: "Action Against the Government? What Are the President's Intentions?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing Quaid-i-Azam Medical College's Silver Jubilee celebration, President Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari said that all the provincial governments, including the government of Punjab have failed. Government control over many departments has weakened and people are demanding the government be privatized. The president presented a true and realistic picture of the situation. Theoretically, elected democratic governments are formed in the provinces after the general elections, but these governments are nowhere to be found. The president said that the government has lost control over its departments and that lawlessness prevails. In some places, members of the assembly are exercising pressure, while in other departments, directives from the prime minister's house

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are being followed. In some departments quotas for jobs are being sold, and billions of rupees in grants are being given to assembly members in order to buy their loyalties. Those Assembly members consider the misappropriation of these funds as their individual right. The country is being controlled by a 'khaba' (grabbers) club. No one has the courage to force repayment of bank loans. People manage to get government loans written off shamelessly. The bureaucracy is also second to none in misappropriating national funds. Misuse of discretionary powers by the bureaucracy to extract money from business and industrial classes is now normal practice.

The constitution states that it is the responsibility of a civilized elected government to protect the lives and properties of its citizens, but in Pakistan, no one's life and property is safe, not in their homes, nor on the roads, nor in their offices, nor even in the mosques. Karachi has become a place of massacre. This ongoing massacre has put Pakistan in an embarrassing position in the international community. Within the country, business and industry have come to a halt, and the people are sitting idle.

The government has begun a confrontation with the opposition. This confrontation has disrupted all democratic traditions. A condition of disharmony prevails at the national-level and our enemies are actively taking advantage of this situation. Countries such as the United States and India are increasing their pressure on us, and their agents and surrogates are working toward weakening our ideological basis. Using this as background the president's comments regarding the government's performance present the true situation. Recently, Malik Meraj Khalid, former speaker of the National Assembly, said that everyone in the government is dishonest except President Leghari. This shows that a charge-sheet is being prepared against the present government and it appears the president and his team have opened gunfire against the government, as is done in war before a full-fledged attack is launched. Let us see with what force and in what manner the president exercises the powers conferred upon him under the eighth amendment. The impression that everything is fine is fading away. The prime minister's request to the opposition to cooperate in annulling the 8th amendment is also being looked at, and the end of verbal attacks over the opposition is also being attributed to this chain of events.

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